THE BEVILLE FAMILY

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THE BEVILLE FAMILY

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Mary Savisy Beville Vaughan

" So dear to heav'n is saintly chastity,
That when a soul is found sincerely so,
A thousand liveried angels lackey her,
Driving afar off each thing of sin and guilt,
And in clear dream and solemn vision
Tell her of things that no gross ear can hear,
Till oft converse with heav'nly habitants
Begin to cast a beam on th' outward shape."

Milton.

THE BEVILLE FAMILY

OF VIRGINIA, GEORGIA, AND FLORIDA,

AND

SEVERAL ALLIED FAMILIES, NORTH AND SOUTH

BY

AGNES BEVILLE VAUGHAN TEDCASTLE

Member of the Georgia Society of Colonial Dames of America, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Huguenot Society of South Carolina, Virginia Historical Society, Georgia Historical Society

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BY

AGNES BEVILLE VAUGHAN TEDCASTLE

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To

The Memory of my Grandmother

LAVINA LIPSEY BEVILLE

and to

My other Best Friend

My Husband

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FOREWORD

Among the English settlers in Virginia, under Lord Delaware and Sir Thomas Dale, in the very early part of the seventeenth century, and at later periods in the same century, were representatives of many of the greatest families of the Mother Land. The same also is true of the settlers of South Carolina, which colony was granted by Charles the Second to eight noblemen in 1665, and under the patronage of these "Lords Proprietors" began to be settled in 1670. To one or the other of these famous southern colonies came early, but in precisely what years we cannot now tell, the various families of which limited sketches will be given or to which allusions will be made in the following pages. Of any of these families far too little has yet been written. Living as they did on great plantations and owning large numbers of negro slaves, rejoicing in aristocratic traditions and able not only to indulge luxurious tastes but to exercise unstintedly the high-bred hospitalities becoming true gentlefolk, there is no section of the American people in Colonial times whose community life stimulates the imagination and lends itself to dramatic historical description and dramatic fiction half so insistently and richly as theirs.

That old Virginia and South Carolina and Georgia plantation life, with its luxury and ease, its courtliness and grace, its strong sense of honour among men and chivalrous regard for women,— in short with all its high lights of romance, and

its dark shades of prosaic defect as well, is long gone now. "Already, as we regard it," says Charles Dudley Warner, "it assumes an air of unreality, and vanishes in its strong lights and heavy shades like a dream of the chivalric age." But in many quarters, in spite of the glare of modern changed conditions, unfaded memories of it remain, and in some at least of the descendants of those who figured in it, as in the writer of the present volume of family sketches, there is strong sense of the duty of preserving the names and the personalities of these early people from entire oblivion in the generations to come.

The greater number of families, which because of their interrelationships are grouped together in this volume are Southern families, but as in the activities and general interests of America in modern days the various sections of the country are becoming more and more entangled, so to the group of Southern families mentioned in this book will be found linked a number of the prominent Puritan families of the North. It was a somewhat far cry from Massachusetts to the extreme South in the days of the Revolution, but shortly after the close of that great struggle one of the writer's ancestors, who had served through the whole of the war, found his way, unmarried, to Georgia, and became in the adjoining Spanish Colony of the Floridas, a Southern Planter too. Marrying, about 1798, a southern wife, he founded a family, which thus had the good fortune to inherit some of the richest traditions of both North and South.

Of these combined northern and southern families from which she is descended, and their histories, the writer of the present volume has undertaken to give brief outline sketches here.

Foreword

The writer realizes that the field wherein she has done her work of love is by no means exhausted. If, however, her efforts should lead to a deeper sense of the debt we owe to the memory of the strong men and women of the American Colonies who labored and endured that this wonderful land we call *The United States of America* should become our heritage, her work will not have been in vain. Her reward has come in large measure from the acquaintance and correspondence with men and women of to-day who have contributed no little to the data herewith presented.

A. B. V. T.

Hillcrest, Milton,
June, 1917.

GLIMPSES OF SOUTHERN PLANTATION LIFE

"I love thee next to Heaven above,
Land of my fathers! — Thee I love."

"Joys too exquisite to last,
And yet *more* exquisite when past."

Montgomery.

"Far down the winding river named in honor of King James by the navigators Newport and Smith, who wrested from the dusky dwellers on its banks an earlier right to call it for their sovereign King Powhatan, stands an old brick house. With spreading wings and airy colonades it is a type of the stately by-gones of Virginia's ancient aristocracy now crumbling to sure decay. Surrounding its lawns and rose gardens are marshes full of game, wheat fields and tobacco fields still ready to answer to a fructifying touch, tall forests of unbroken shade." Mrs. Burton Harrison, in Flower De Hundred.

"I am helped to bear all that is so very painful to me here by my constant enjoyment of the strange wild scenery in the midst of which I live . . . . . I rode today to some new cleared and ploughed ground that was being prepared for the precious cotton crop. I crossed a salt marsh upon a raised causeway that was perfectly alive with land-crabs, whose desperately active endeavors to avoid my horse's hoofs were so ludicrous that I literally laughed alone and aloud at them. The sides of this road across the swamp were covered with a thick close embroidery of creeping moss or rather lichens of the most vivid green and red: the latter made my horse's path look as if it was edged with an exquisite pattern of coral; it was like a thing in a fairy tale, and delighted me extremely . . . .

"After my crab and coral causeway I came to the most exquisite thickets of evergreen shrubbery you can imagine. If I wanted to paint paradise I would copy this undergrowth, passing through which I went on to the settlement of St. Annie's, traversing another swamp on another raised causeway. The thickets through which I next rode were perfectly draped with the beautiful wild jasmine of these woods. Of all the parasitical plants I ever saw, I do think it is the most exquisite in form and colour, and its perfume is like the most delicate heliotrope." Frances Anne Kemble, in Journal of a Residence on a Georgia Plantation.

CHAPTER I

GLIMPSES OF SOUTHERN PLANTATION LIFE

THE writer of the following family sketches was reared on the plantations of her maternal grandparents in Georgia and Florida, while others of her immediate ancestors owned conspicuous plantations in East Florida not far from the Georgia line. Life on all these plantations was much the same, and it seems desirable before the sketches themselves begin, to give some glimpses of this life as the writer actually knew it.

Besides our grandparents' large plantation, which consisted of about four thousand acres, there was the town house, with twenty acres about it, the eastern boundary of this property being a beautiful stream loved by the Indians in earlier days, the name of which was (and is) "Sweet Water Branch," because of the transparent clearness and purity of the water which flows in it. This crystal stream flowed for miles through a forest of primeval pines. On the town property our little grandmother put into practice her advanced ideas on horticulture, growing here most of the ornamental and fruit trees and shrubs peculiar to the West Indies, as well as those already commonly known in Florida. She had a theory that to get the sweetest oranges one must raise the trees from seed without grafting, and from somewhere she

once procured a barrel of so-called China oranges, which were medium in size, very fine skinned, and of a peculiar aromatic sweetness, and from these she raised trees, some of which stood close to the house and grew to be quite thirty feet tall. From the third story windows of the great house we used freely to gather oranges which hung in wonderful clusters of gold against a background of dark glossy green leaves. The little grandmother began growing bananas also, but her sense of beauty was so great that she soon discarded these trees because they were ragged, untidy, and ugly in appearance.

Within the gate of her wonderful garden[1] of roses, jasmines of all kinds, oleanders twenty feet high, heavily laden with rosy pink blossoms, and century plants with their delicate yellow orchid-like blooms that came only once, we used to play till our dear old black mammy would warn us that our day was ended and we must go to bed. One of the most sacred memories of the dear grandmother was her injunction, which we never disobeyed, that having spoken with the Heavenly Father in our evening prayer we must speak to no human being afterward that night. Thus came to us a spirit of reverence for God which has never been and can never be lost.

Our grandfather was reared by his grandfather, a gentleman of General Washington's time and type, and our grandfather's memories were historic and picturesque. As we walked and talked together, the man of six feet two inches, and the little girl, his first grandchild, whom he always called his "baby," it was the writer's good fortune to learn much of the noble past of the South, both as regards men and measures. He always styled *his* grandfather *our* grand-

father, and they two and the little grandchild "our threefold cord." To his grandchild he entrusted the responsibility of transmitting to later generations the traditions he loved so well.

One of the chiefest of these traditions was how the old Joshua Pearce homestead, on the original grant from King George the Third, in St. George's Parish, now Screven County, Georgia, had been made historic and doubly dear by the visit of President Washington in the course of his memorable ride from Savannah to Augusta in 1791. Later, in 1825, Stephen Pearce, son of Joshua, entertained General Lafayette on his return visit to the South he had served so well in the closing years of the Revolution.

Pleasant it was in 1916 to find that only the day before, the country schoolmaster had brought his pupils from the church near by to show them the much respected spot where the great house had stood. It may interest our readers to know that the mahogany table at which our first President sat for his tea on that fifth of May, 1791, is still in the family of his host. Washington chose for his refreshment on that occasion, southern waffles, crisp and thin, honey and pound cake, in which he knew his hostess excelled. The table has another association of historic interest: when it was being removed from the burning house a soldier disfigured it with a slash of his sword. Just here let us say that the kindred and friends of the owners of this table bear little malice towards General Sherman, although their eyes grow dim with tears as memories of the dark period of the civil war persistently crowd upon them.

Our table has carried us along the years with too great swiftness, we must go back to Georgia and have a closer

look at those gentlemen who came with their families and slaves from Virginia and the Carolinas somewhere between 1758 and '68, and settled in the newer province of Georgia.

By this change they secured by royal grant a larger acreage for their plantations, but found serious border troubles by reason of the hostile attitude of Indians and Spaniards. As one studies the colonization of our country one realizes, however, the comfort and delight that must have come to these planters by moving in groups the members of which were bound to each other by the closest ties of blood and friendship. Whether we find these men, brave and true, in Virginia, the Carolinas, or Georgia, we see in the main the same family groups clinging together, as for example the Arundells, Bevills, Edwardses, Everetts, Granvilles, Hales, Laniers, McIntoshes, McCalls, Millses, and Pearces.

The sources of the wealth of these planters were the products of the soil, rice, indigo and cotton, and especially the giant pine trees of Georgia's primeval forest. These huge pines were sent down the Savannah and other rivers, and thus on to England to be made into masts for the British navy, and to enter into the construction of manor houses. These landed proprietors of the South thus became men of large incomes and wide influence. Colonel Charles Spalding Wylly, in his enlightening and charming book "The Seed that was sown in the Colony of Georgia," describing life on the Georgia Sea Island plantations on which the writer's ancestors lived, says: "In manner, mind, and bearing the planter and gentleman of that day exhibited a constant courtesy to equal and inferior. Many were men of wide education and often of travel and experience. The fatal "environment" had not yet poisoned spirit, heart, or action. They were distinguished

by a universal desire for the upbuilding of the country and for love of the Union. To a certain extent they were overbearing in opinion, for the habit of command asserted itself in their mental as well as their daily life, and with it a dogmatism not open to argument."

"The home life of these owners of generally large plantations was delightful; hospitality was universal, and to be the guest of one family insured constant invitations to others. Courtesy, one to the other, was greatly in evidence in speech and demeanor. Indeed, the "code duello" had long issued its decree that the slighest deviation from a studied etiquette demanded quick reparation, and that to women was due double caution in speech and approach. The mode of entertainment was lavish, and though in somewhat of a "castle-racket" order, had yet to every visitor the subtle charm of being made to feel that in his stay he was conferring a favor and not in receipt of one. To this was added a constant change in the company, for in some houses the procession of incoming and outgoing guests was continuous."

"An aunt of mine has said to me that when a young lady in her father's house, she scarcely remembered sitting down to the dinner table with less than twenty-four. And I have often been told of the gentleman and his wife who being asked to dine at a residence on St. Simon, found that during a meal a boat had been sent to Darien, fifteen miles distant for their luggage, and that so much pleased were host, hostess, and guests with one another that the stay was prolonged until two children had been born to the visiting couple."

"The most common mode of entertaining," says this writer, "was the giving of formal dinners. . . . The men ar-

ranged hunting, fishing, and shooting parties for the mornings and forenoons. The ladies rode much on horseback, but never as is now common joined the men in their field sports; conversation and needlework were their chief resources . . . In each of the homes the library was the room most frequented. The paucity of social life forced a book companionship, and when chance or purpose threw the residents together, the conversation turned into channels as unlike the talk, chat, and repartee of the present day as is possible to be imagined. . . . The sons of 'well-to-do' families were sent abroad and received fair educations with collegiate training. But that of the daughters was in general entrusted exclusively to governesses. The colleges and finishing schools that now offer to the feminine sex advantages not inferior to what Princeton, Harvard, and Yale give to their brothers, were unknown. One or at most two years in Charleston or Savannah gave the finishing touch to an education that was often followed quickly by an early marriage."

"The mistress of one of these plantation houses, and hostess to this never ending house party," continues the writer, "led an arduous life. Servants she had in numbers . . . . but they needed her constant oversight and care."

This last bit of description applies with peculiar aptness to our little grandmother. Her responsibilities and duties were manifold, by reason of the care of her own children, the management of her numerous slaves, and the superintendence of the rearing of their children, who were dear to her not so much because they were her possessions, as because they were her fellow human beings. The little grandmother was possessed of all the qualities and attributes sketched by King

Solomon as essentials of the perfect woman. Not content with rearing her own ten children, she did as much for two orphans and her first grandchild, as well as two coloured boys.

It is often charged that the Southern planters ruthlessly separated the families of their slaves when it suited their convenience to do so, but there was at least one instance of a mother who so trusted her "ole miss" that she chose to leave her two small boys with her when her owners removed to Florida. Nancy was a famous cook and was always allowed to go to neighboring plantations to assist their mistresses when weddings were about to take place. She was the chief of three cooks at the great house, while her husband belonged to a neighboring planter. When it was decided by our grandfather to remove to Florida, he offered to purchase Nancy's husband, but his owner saw too good an opportunity to procure an excellent cook, and so refused to sell his man, also declining to buy Nancy's small sons, aged two and three. In this exigency Nancy was allowed to choose whether she would remain or not, and she thought it best to cling to her husband. Our grandparents, however, compelled her new owner to allow her to continue the care of her six months old baby. This was in 1851, but when a visit was finally made by the little grandmother to her sister at her Georgia plantation, twenty years later, Nancy left her husband and accompanied her former mistress to Florida, scarcely ever again while she lived leaving her side. The writer well remembers Nancy's "shouting" around the young coloured son of twenty-two, who had been taken to Georgia to see his mother while she was still there.

Has it ever been given to the reader to see a church full of people smile a welcome to an adorable and adored woman

when she appeared? The writer looked forward to this benediction every Sabbath long ago, for when the little grandmother walked into the village church on grandfather's arm, the members of the small congregation knew that their patron saint was there and in this way acknowledged her presence. And a picture, too, she was, dressed in her pretty brown silk, with real lace collar, and quaint poke bonnet which framed her beautiful face. Her eyes were large and blue as Heaven's own sky, her hair soft and curly, lightly touched with gray, her features regular and true, shining with the light that never was on land or sea.

What did Monday bring this mistress of a large plantation of the early nineteenth century? There were the spinning wheels and looms to be set in motion, while the many clothes had to be cut and made for the men, women, and children at the "quarters." All the workers were carefully trained and supervised by the little grandmother, and there was not one among them who could make the big cotton spinning-wheels sing so sweetly as could she. Truly, the music of the pines at her door was not sweeter to the writer than the whir of her wheel as she moved back and forth while teaching those who were less skilled than herself how to make the threads finer and truer. All her movements gave us joy, and wherever she passed her very presence threw the high lights on the picture. After all, is not life one complete picture; and all pictures must have high light, middle tint, and shadow, without which there would be no form. The high light of life is what we make it by our own determined touch and skill, the middle tint is the daily routine, and is as beautiful and useful as we choose to make it, while the shadow is sorrow and death! Then there were the weddings,

christenings, sugar-cane boilings, plantings, etc., all of which functions "ole miss" must attend. When sickness came she was untiring, and these dear dependents were always satisfied and cheered by her ministrations, whatever the result.

It is worth not being young any more to be able to remember somewhat of the old regime of a Southern plantation. Even in our Southern home of the late nineties after our marriage it was blessed to have our dear old black mammy Harriet with us. We did not own her, she owned us, and in a measure controlled our destiny. One day Mammy Harriet met a young man of feeble health near the entrance to the estate, and thus accosted him: "Little bit, is you gwine up to de big house to see my chile?" Upon being answered in the affirmative she took him by the shoulder, and turning him around with his face towards the town said: "You des go back to dat town wid dat *guitar* in yo' haid!" And he took her decision of his love affair as final. Mammy's outlook was far oftener true than otherwise.

Once Mammy asked for money to send her grandchild to a Northern city, where an older sister of the girl was at work, and where there were excellent schools. A few weeks later the dear old soul announced: "May is comin' home, she on de train now. Dey put her in a room wid a whole passel o' white chillun, and May cyant stan' it!" Mammy Harriet's description of Heaven, in the hymn which she frequently crooned, was unique:

"When I go to Heaven
An' live at my ease
Me an' my Jesus
Gwine do as we please."

REFRAIN.

"*Aint* I happy now
Settin down by de side ob de Lam'."

"Two white hosses
Side an' side,
Me an' God-a'mighty
Gwine tek a ride."

REFRAIN.

"*Aint* I happy now
Settin down by de side ob de Lam'."

One evening we told Mammy she need not come to us for the usual reading of the Scriptures, because some friends had unexpectedly come to us for a game of whist. "Ay Lord!" said mammy with a deep sigh. "What is the trouble Mammy?" we asked. "O Miss Aggie, Honey," answered the dear old soul, "I don' on'erstan' you young Christuns. You pray to God-a'mighty one night, an' you play cyards de nex'."

Once Mammy came to us in an excited frame of mind and urged us to write a note to her cousin, from whom she rented a cabin for her daughter and her family. "Tell him, please ma'am," she said, "dat ef he will wait to de een' of de month I'll pay him his ole rent ef he des wont level (levy) on my furni*ture*." In less than a fortnight Mammy said to us: "You 'member, Miss Aggie, I axed you to write to dat good-fur-nuthin' cousin of mine, Anderson Paine, and tell him not to level on my furni*ture*? Well, I done bin to de Cote House and Ise got my papers, and de clerk say ef I fetch him a dollar ev'y year I wont have to pay no more debts long as I live." When we remonstrated with her at taking such unfair advantage of the law, she said: "What's

dat law made fur, Honey, ef it ain't fur widders and orphans lak me?

Has any of our readers ever seen the "man in the moon"? He is there, and we know it, because our black Mammy told us so when we were very very young. He was put there, she said, as an awful punishment for "burnin' brush on a Sunday," and so breaking the Fourth Commandment. What, we wonder, would Mammy think of the modern keeping of the Sabbath, of society's teas and dinners, golf, tennis, and rackets of many kinds.

When Mammy grew altogether too old to work we pensioned her and she rented a cabin in what we considered an utterly unsuitable neighborhood, the land being low and lying along the line of a railway. But the dear creature insisted that it was greatly to her advantage to live there and we found that the chief merit of the location was that it afforded her an opportunity of getting her wood and coal for nothing. In answer to our expressions of surprise at this revelation she stated that she got her fuel "from the cyars that stood on de siding, and nobody ain't 'sturbed me yit." "When do you go for your wood and coal?" we asked her. "Three o'clock in de mawnin'," she replied, quite as a matter of course. No doubt this was quite the safest hour in the day for such an expedition.

Once when we returned from England, after visiting our family there Mammy queried: "How long wuz you on dat big water, wuz it one week or two? Anyhow, I prayed two weeks to make sure. But de nex' time *he* go to see his ma he must go by hissef and leave *my chile* at home."

The slaves of the aristocracy of the South were very proud of the lineage of their owners. In 1889 we were building

roads and making lawns and orchards on our estate, and it fell to the master of the house to decide between two applicants for the position of "boss of the gang." He chose the bigger, stronger man, without any thought of his prestige or the lack of it, that he had had as a slave in the early sixties. The head of the house was soon called to Massachusetts on business, and it fell to the writer to bear the brunt of his mistake, for he had made the mistake of choosing a negro who had belonged to an obscure family. The unsuccessful candidate, Frank, worked well, but, as having been a slave on a notable plantation, he felt keenly his disgrace in being placed in a subordinate position to the other negro. One morning we received this greeting from Frank: "Good mawnin mam! I's pintedly glad to see you, cause dat Yankee gen'man he don made dat ole nigger John de boss of us ten niggers when he don know nuttin. Ef he tell you the name of his master you wouldn't know who he wuz; and he maybe never had but one nigger no-how, while I was Senator Ben Hill's nigger, I wuz, and dey teached me out of de books, dey did." "Please mam," he continued, "you knows books, now tell me, is dat land *harvey's uncle*?" We insisted that we did not understand, but at last it dawned upon us that he meant *horizontal*. The word, he was sure, was either in the "jografy" or the "'rithmetic," he did not know which. When we guessed horizontal he said: "Yes'm, sho I mean dat, ain't I tell you it wuz in de books and dat my master, Senator Ben Hill, teached me. But please mam, tell me mistis, wuz it in de jografy sure nuf, or in de 'rithmetic?"

Frank, the gardener, was as black as ebony, but he and the black pet cat, "Jetty," were not on good terms. From

our chamber window, once when Jetty was spitting out her dislike of Frank, with her back and fur raised high, we heard this retort from the negro : " Fore Gawd, I'd lak to know who's eny blacker 'an you is ! "

Ellen Billups was quite the best cook we ever had. She was talented and had been exceedingly well-trained by a famous Southern housewife. The day she came to our country home to apply for the position, we frankly told her we wanted a woman without children ; she quickly replied " I aint got a chile in de worl'." When she had been in our employ several months we observed that she had converted her sitting-room into a sleeping-apartment. On inquiring about the matter she answered thus : " Dat is fur Bud and Dove, my sons." " But you told us you had no children," we said. " Dey aint no chillun, mam," she replied, " dey is full grown men, but dey takes dey meals at de rester*ann*." In the South all the house servants live in a neat cottage on the estate, each maid generally having two rooms allotted to her. Our parlor-maid at this time was Alice, whose husband, Sam Bolling, was a well-known preacher.

We had just recovered from the shock of discovering Ellen's sons, " Bud " and " Dove," when, one fine Summer morning about five o'clock, we saw the dark-visaged figure of a bearded man pass out of the grounds along the river-bank. "And who is this man, Ellen ? " we asked, later in the day. " Oh, Miss Agnes," she said, " dat's *Jones* ; us bin keepin' house together for sixteen years ; you needn't bother 'bout *him*." We will let Alice, the parlor-maid, whose husband was a preacher, tell what followed. " Last night me and Sam were settin' down talkin' and there came a rap

on the door. When we opened it, there stood Ellen all dressed in white, with a hand on Jones's arm. She said right shyly: 'Brother Bolling, me an' Jones wants you to marry us. *We'se* sassfied, but Miss Agnes she feel so bad 'bout us keepin' house together dat Jones he dun got a weddin' license.'"

The couple were married and nothing further was said about the matter for a number of weeks, then one day Ellen said to us: "Miss Agnes, you allus' have extry men in de gyarden, won't you please mam give Jones employ*ment*?" "Certainly," said we, and the next Monday Jones appeared in the garden. All the week he worked well and on Saturday afternoon Ellen requested that we should give his money to her, saying she would give it to him.

The next Monday morning Jones was missing. "Where is Jones?" we asked Ellen. "I'll tell you de truth 'bout dat nigger, Miss Agnes; long as we des kep' house together, he gived me all his money dem sixteen years an' we never had no words 'bout nuthin. But des as soon as dat ole weddin' license wuz bought, it was nuthin' but qwarellin', qwarellin' all de time, an' he ain' never give me a cent, till I *tuk* his wages las' Saturday night. Dat nigger dun gone, an' he aint gwine cum back no mo' nuther."

As we have already stated, Sam Bolling, whose wife was our parlor-maid, was a colored preacher, his charge being a church on an island near Savannah. Late one evening Alice received by telegraph this message: "Come at once, Sam Bolling dying." We so dreaded the excitement and confusion incident to such a funeral as would probably be had on our estate if Sam's body were brought there, that the master of the house strongly advised, nay even ordered, Alice to bury her husband in his own churchyard, so that his parish-

Ellen

104 years on Harrison plantation

ioners might bear the expense of the funeral and care for his grave. To this Alice readily assented. A very few days later Alice, to our surprise, again waited on us at breakfast, looking none the worse for her sad experience. "Well, Alice," said the master, "of course you buried Sam beside his church!" "No, sir;" answered the woman, "I brung him home." "But I told you to bury him *there*!" exclaimed the master. With characteristic naiveté Alice replied: "Yes, sir, but he aint *daid*, I brung him home alive." Ellen Harrison, whose likeness we are delighted to reproduce here, is now a hundred and four years old. Her picture was taken last summer on Amelia Island, Florida, at the old Harrison plantation, where she has always lived, held in high esteem by the family and their descendants who once owned her. Only last summer Ellen was cook at a house-party of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of her former master. One could go a day's journey and find no nobler woman than she, regardless of color or creed. Honor, efficiency and poise are unmistakably among her characteristics and have had their part in the fine life she has lived. When asked if she remembered the visitor's grand parents she answered joyously; "Indeed I do remember Marse Daniel and Miss 'Liza, and Marse Johnnie (our father), too. Those were good old days when they lived, and I cooked for them."

"Daddy Primiss" is now almost a hundred and was owned by the brother of one of our ancestors. He makes his home with the great-grandchildren of his old master. This message he sent to us not long ago: "Please mum, put it in your book dat my master, Robert Bevill, married de widder Hudson, who wuz Miss Sarah Williams, of South

Carolina ; an' she wuz n't born no Hudson an' I knows it." It is doubtless true that other genealogical tangles would be straightened out could we only gain access to more of these dear old friends of the long-gone past.

Loyalty to those employers of whom they think well-enough to call " our folks " and devotion to their duty to them are still dominant traits in the best of the Southern colored people. We are glad that our own home is still blest with the services of refined, well-trained men and women of this race. " Our Mary," especially, who comes to us from Charleston year after year, is indeed to the manor born.

It was customary before the civil war for the master of a large plantation to ride about his fields frequently on a fine horse set apart for his use. There was a bridle-path in every important field along which the planter would ride while he made his observations. There comes to our mind now one event of special interest and importance that occurred once when Grandfather and his little girl, the writer, were driving along a lane on the plantation. A noise as of snorting horses caused us to look upward to a woodland stretch that lay on a knoll above the lane where we were driving : Then it was that the child got her very first impression of grandeur, in witnessing a fight between the two magnificent stallions of the stock plantation. The two eldest sons of the planter were in the habit of riding " Dudley " and " Jordan " in making their rounds of the plantation, being always very careful to avoid meeting each other. On this occasion, however, the two men rode around the curve of the forest from opposite directions, and without a moment's notice, the stallions sprang at each other. For a few mo-

ments the riders kept their seats, then simultaneously they made a leap, and both seizing heavy fence-rails, struck the maddened animals blow after blow. Their onslaughts, however, were without effect. "Dudley" and "Jordan" were each so determined to kill the other that they seemed not to notice their masters' strokes. The fight did not cease until one horse had dug his teeth into the other's neck and felled him. When "Jordan" lay dead "Dudley" stood over his body with true animal pride in his deadly feat of killing his rival. This was a Southern duel of an unusual kind. When we were older we recognized the counterpart of the battle in the Rosa Bonheur's famous painting "The Horse Fight."

Each notable Southern plantation had its cotton-gin, grist-mill, and store. On Friday of every week, neighboring groups of planters would send their corn to the mill to be made into meal and hominy to meet the plantation's needs for the coming week. During the cotton-picking season, on all other days than Friday the power, which was steam, would be used alone for driving the cotton-gins : Saturday, also, on the plantation was an interesting day, for then the slaves assembled in the smoke-house yard for the distribution of their week's rations, which consisted of corn-meal, hominy, bacon, flour, syrup, and sugar. They themselves raised in the "patches" about their cabin-doors such things as chickens, vegetables and small fruits.

There were many Southern families that felt the poverty consequent upon the civil war more keenly than did ours. The little grandmother's good judgment and fine executive ability soon caused our cotton to be turned into a bank balance, and even cotton caterpillar, so dreaded by Southern

planters, did not dismay her. She always argued the wisdom of raising diversified crops, so that if rain, so necessary to the growth of corn, was not abundant, cotton, which is eminently a sun-plant, could still be made to keep the balance. When they grew up, the three oldest sons of the family were made masters of the several institutions of the plantation and this distribution of authority worked well on the place.

In one of the skirmishes which occurred at Gainesville during the Civil War, when the Federals had been victorious, little grandmother's town house was taken as a hospital, though we were permitted to occupy the third floor. The estate was well picketed by Federal soldiers, and the family was thus protected. The dark red piano cover was flung to the breeze as the hospital flag, and for many years afterward we children used to peep into the hole on the stairway which was pierced by a bullet as it passed between the ankles of our favorite aunt as she ran upstairs. During the engagement the children had been sent by grandmother to the third floor, but when the greatest activity began on the ground floor, the writer, as a little girl will often do, ran below to take observations. The picture that presented itself to her was of the slaves running back and forth with shining white cedar tubs filled with water, and grandmother and her daughters with others tenderly ministering to the needs of the wounded and dying. Even in such circumstances grandmother's large and wide sympathies did not forsake her.

When Cedar Keys was stricken with yellow fever in 1871, with her usual greatness of soul she threw open her house

to the refugees, and then as a consequence came our terrible loss, for she herself was stricken with the dread disease and died. Curiously, it was then held by the medical world that yellow fever could not occur except in sporadic cases, other than on the seaboard, consequently people from the stricken town of Cedar Keys rushed to the interior to escape it, and accordingly the town of Gainesville was as deeply bereaved as though a war had been fought within its precincts.

THE BEVILL OR BEVILLE FAMILY

"The stately homes of England
How beautiful they stand
Amid their tall ancestral trees
O'er all the pleasant land."

Mrs. Hemans.

Beville Coat of Arms

CHAPTER II

THE BEVILL OR BEVILLE FAMILY

AMONG the many great English families which sent representatives to Virginia in the seventeenth century was the illustrious Cornish family of Bevill or Beville.[2] This family was one of the group of noted families of Cornwall which comprised the Arundells, Bassets, Fortescues, Godolphins, Granvilles, Killigrews, Petits, Prideauxs, Roscarricks, St. Aubyns, Tregomynions, Trewents, and Tremaynes, and was by all means one of the greatest of them. Its founder was De Beville, a Norman knight, "who accompanied the Conqueror in his expedition to England, and was placed at Truro as Commander-in-Chief of the Western District." There seems little doubt, says Gilbert, in his *Complete Historical Survey of Cornwall*, "that the castle of Truro was built as a residence for this petty chief and his successors in office," and the early importance of the family is shown by the fact that Reginald Bevill was one of the two first representatives of Cornwall in the English Parliament in the year 1294, the twenty-third year of the reign of Edward the First. In succeeding parliaments many Bevills held the same relation to the county, and one of the family, John Bevill, a descendant of Reginald, was Sheriff of Cornwall in 1382.

Famous alliances without number occurred in successive generations between the Bevill family and the other great families of Cornwall, notably the families of Arundel and Granville or Grenville. "The manor of Gwarnike," says Lysons's *Topographical and Historical Account of the County of Cornwall*, "passed at an early period, by a female heir, to the ancient family of Bevill, whose chief seat it continued to be for ten descents. The male line of this family became extinct in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the two coheiresses married into the families of Arundell of Trerice, and Grenville. The Arundells became possessed of Gwarnicke; John Arundell of Gwarnicke, commonly called Black Arundell (from his always wearing a black dress), dying without issue in the year 1597 gave it to his kinsman Prideaux. In 1704, it was sold by the Prideaux family to James Kempe of Penryn, and in 1731 purchased by Edward Prideaux, Esq^{r}., of Place House, Padstow, ancestor to the Rev. Charles Prideaux Brune, of the same place. . . . There were formerly two chapels at Gwarnike; one at a small distance from the house, which was demolished before the year 1736, and another attached to it, which, together with 'the old hall, curiously timbered with Irish oak,' was then remaining."

A farm house built of materials from the hall now occupies the site of this famous residence of the Bevilles and Arundells. Between the Bevilles and Granvilles or Grenvilles there were several notable alliances, which are indicated or described in the magnificent *History of the Granville Family* (traced back to Rollo, first Duke of Normandy, with pedigree charts), by the Rev. Roger Granville, M. A., Rector of Bideford, and published in Exeter, England, in 1895. "Sir

Gwarnock, reduced to a Farmhouse in the 17th Century

Richard Granville, marshal of Calais," says the Rev. Roger Granville, "improved the family estates by his marriage with Matilda, daughter and co-heir of John Bevill of Gwarnock, the descendant of another old Norman family, which had been settled in Cornwall since the Conquest, and with whom the Granvilles intermarried more than once. The will of Peter Bevill (The father of John Bevill) was proved in 1515. In it the names of his two granddaughters occur. '*Item do et lego Marie Arundell et Matilde Greneffelde, fil: Johannis Bevyll filii mei cuilibet earum £20.*'"

A grandson of Sir Richard Granville and his wife, Matilda Bevill, was the celebrated Sir Richard Granville of the *Revenge*, cousin of Sir Walter Raleigh, who in 1591, as Vice-Admiral of a squadron was sent out to intercept the richly-laden Spanish fleet on its return from the West Indies. "How the English ships were surprised in their lurking place at Flores in the Azores, and how valiantly Sir Richard Granville fought and died for Queen and Country let Raleigh and Tennyson tell." This Sir Richard Granville, also, it was, who brought to Virginia in 1585 Sir Walter Raleigh's second fleet with the colonists who fared so badly that they returned to England with Sir Francis Drake. The grandson of this Sir Richard was "the immortal Sir Beville Granville, eldest son of Sir Bernard Granville and his wife Elizabeth Beville of Killigarth, near Polperro," who fell at the battle of Lansdowne, near Bath, fighting for King Charles the First, in 1643.

The ancient parish church of Cornwall with whose history the history of the Beville family is most closely identified is the Talland Church, commonly known as the Beville Church, near Polperro, the most picturesque and entirely unchanged

fishing village in Cornwall. "This church," says Gilbert, "was considered not many years ago one of the most interesting religious edifices in Cornwall . . . . The form of the building is rather singular, it having a large Gothic porch on the south side, with two heavy entrances; and on the south side of this is attached the tower, which rises to a good height and is adorned by battlements. The interior of the church consists of two noble aisles and a small transverse called Killigarth Aisle, and although its religious aspect is considerably lessened by the glare of its Venetian windows its former impressive dignity is by no means wholly subdued. Most of the original pews remain and the workmanship on them is unusually rich and beautiful. In the south aisle are hung several helmets, which bear a griffin, the crest of Beville; also swords and gauntlets. Below these venerable antiquities stands an altar tomb whereon is sculptured the full length effigy of John Beville, Esquire, who died in 1574, and a profusion of other ornaments." The epitaph is as follows:

"Here lyeth ye bodye of John Bevyll of Kyllygarth, Esquire, who deceased the XXth of January, beynge ye age of LXIII, in anno Elizabeth Regine XXI, 1578, he married Elizabeth Myllytun, and had Issue by her lyvying at hys deceaes 4 sons and 4 daughters

"A Rubye Bull in perle Filde
doth shewe by strength and hew
A youthful wight yet chaste and cleane
to wedded feare most trew

"From diamonde Beare in perle plot
a leevinge hee achieved
By stronge and steadfast constancy
in chastness still contrived

"To make all up a mach he made
with Millets plaste
In native seate so nature hath
the former vertues graste

"His Prince he served in good regard
twyce Shereeve and so just
That justlye still on Justice seate
three Princes him dyd trust.

"Such was his lyfe and suche his death
whose corps full low doth lye
Whilste soule by Christe to happy state
with hym doth rest on hye.

"Learne by his life such life to leade
his death: let platform bee
In life to shun the cause of death
that Christe may leeve in thee.

"William Bevill, Knight, eldest brother. He married Jane, daughter of Thomas Arundell, Knight.

"Peter Beville, second brother, married Grace, one of the co-heiresses of William Vyell, Esquire.

"Philip Bevill, third brother, married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Anthony Bearrye.

"John Bevyll, fourth brother, married Johan, the daughter of Killiowe.

"Henry Meggs, Esquire, married Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of John Bevyll, Esqire.

"Walter Kendall, Esqire, married Agnes Bevyll, the second daughter of the aforesaid John Bevyll.

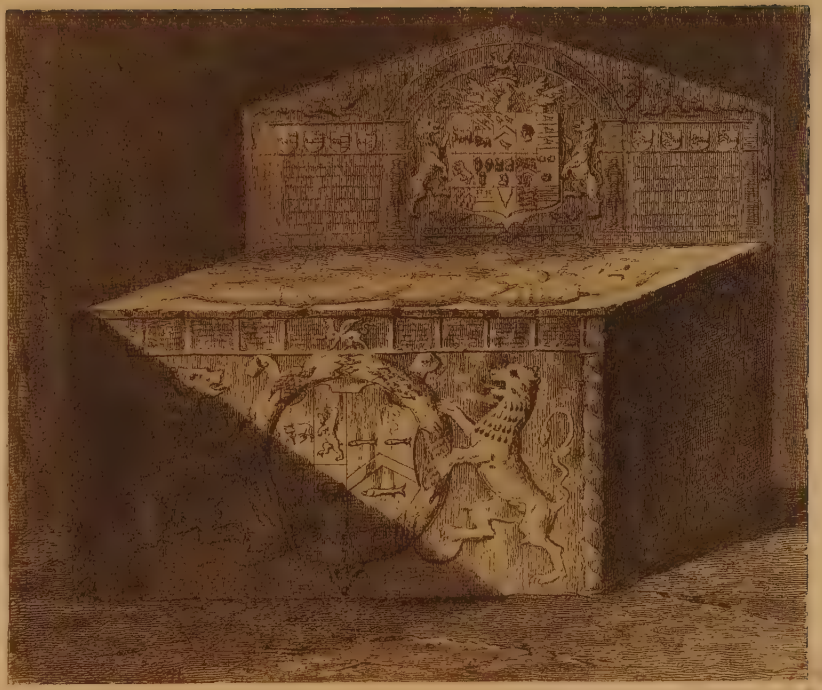
"William Pomeroye, married Mary Bevyll, the third daughter.

"Humphrey Prideaux, Esqire, married Johan Bevyll, the fourth daughter.

"This Toumbe was made at the costs and charges of William Bevill, Knight, Sonne and Heir of John Bevill, Esquier, here in toumbed, and the Ladye Jane, wief unto the saied Syr William Bevyll, Knight, being the youngest daughter of Sir Thomas Arrundell, Knight.

"Motto : *Futurum invisible.*"

"Much of the history of the interior of our church," says the Reverend J. Parson, the present Vicar of Talland Church, "centres round the name of Sir John Beville, Kt., whose exquisite slate monument is in the east end of the South aisle. It is just possible that it may be due to his maternal grandfather, John Bere, of Killigarth, who died in 1517, that we owe the oldest carving and seating; but more probably . . . . we owe it to John Beville himself, who died in 1587, and that it is due to his granddaughter, and her husband, Sir Bernard Grenville, who also lived at Killigarth, that we owe the remaining carved ends — those in the north transept, the pulpit, and the Beville family pew. The reason which induces one to believe that John Bere, or John Beville, did much for the church in his day, is that the initials 'I. B.' are on the panel of one of the oldest bench ends, with a winged figure as finial, near the pulpit. It is unreasonable to suppose the initials would be placed there, unless there was some cause of gratitude towards a public benefactor. And for the same reason the Grenvilles, who owned this estate later, were not likely to permit their coat of arms to be paraded for the sake of vainglory, nor would any other donor put on these carvings, the arms of a family with which he was not connected. Sir Bernard Grenville came into possession of Killigarth through marriage. It was the home of his wife, Elizabeth, who was the only child of



Beville Alter-tomb, Talland Church, Cornwall

Phillip Beville, and the only grandchild of all John Beville's four sons and four daughters. Sir Bernard Grenville gave up his residence at Stowe in Kilkhampton parish, North Cornwall, to his son, Sir Beville Grenville, of famous memory, and came to Killigarth to live. Two letters of his are in existence, dated from Killigarth, in 1614 and 1616. . . .

"It adds much to the interest of our church to realize that here there must have worshipped, and these seats have been occupied by, successive generations of great men and heroes. For example, Sir John Beville, who was Sheriff for the county under three monarchs (died 1578); and his cousin, the great Sir Richard Grenville, whose mother was a Beville. The latter would have paid occasional visits before his death at sea (1591), when he died fighting the Spaniards against untold odds. Then again, Sir Bernard Grenville, son of the preceding. He was noted for his goodness and worth as a county gentleman, and lived for some years at Killigarth as stated. Also, his most distinguished son, Sir Beville Grenville,[3] who led King Charles's forces in Cornwall and other parts of England."

Sir Bevill Grenville's eldest son John was a principal instrument of the Restoration, and was created Earl of Bath, 20 April, 1661, three days before the coronation of King Charles the Second. Soon after the Restoration the king claimed the province of Carolina and united it to Great Britain as a "Principality or Palatinate." The fertile districts between Albemarle Sound and the river St. John the king granted to eight of his favorite noblemen, John Grenville Lord Bath being one of them. Bath was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of the Counties of Cornwell and Devon in England. "A document," says the Rev. Roger Granville

in his *History of the Granville Family*, " dated 24 June, 1670, is extant, by which the Earl of Bath, as Lord-Lieutenant of Devon, appointed twenty-one gentlemen of the county to act as his Deputies. Attendant to this commission is a magnificent seal nearly three inches wide. On it is represented the Earl in armor on horseback charging the foe. The inscription is *Sigillum Praenobilis Johannis Comitis Bathoniae.* The reverse bears the family arms quarterly: (1) Granville; (2) Wyche; (3) St. Leger; (4) Bevill; and on a scroll is the expressive motto, *Futurum invisibile.*"

The founder of the Bevill family of Virginia, the " Old Dominion ", was Essex Bevill, whose name first appears in a land warrant dated 27 October, 1671, to " Essex Bevill of Old Town, on the Appomatox river." That he had then recently come, and that he had come not directly from England but from Barbadoes seems highly probable. His wife is known to have been Ann Butler,[4] whom he married probably about 1669, for his eldest son, John, was born, it is said, in 1670. Other children of Essex and Ann Bevill were: Essex, Jr., whose wife was Mary, and who was alive in 1726; Mary; Elizabeth; and Amy.

John Bevill, elder son of Essex and Amy Bevill, married Martha, possibly Claiborne. He had a grant of land confirmed to him of two hundred and twenty-five acres in Bristol Parish, " formerly granted to Amy Butler, mother of the said John Bevill, dated in the original grant 29 September, 1664, in Charles City county, Virginia." On the 17th of August, 1720, Essex Bevill, Jr., had a grant of a hundred and twenty-seven acres " on the south side of the Appomatox river, in Prince George county, Virginia, opposite Sappony town."[5] An interesting notice of Mrs. Amy Bevill occurs

in the *Institutional History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century* (Vol. I., p. 406). A few years after 1684, as the date would seem to be, "Mrs. Ann Bevill of Henrico, by deed of gift during her lifetime, divided her collection of books equally between her two sons". This collection of books, from the special mention of it as having been transmitted by deed of gift, would probably have been one of the most important private libraries in Virginia at the period when it was willed.

On the 25th of August, 1724, Robert Bevill, who was probably a son of John rather than Essex, received a grant of two hundred and twenty acres in Prince George County. After this there were many grants made to Bevills of the third generation — to John Bevill, to Thomas and Daniel Bevill, "sons of Essex Bevill deceased" (dated 1730), and to Essex Bevill, 3rd. The Robert Bevill who received a grant in Prince George County in 1724 was one of the most prominent men in Bristol Parish, and his name occurs frequently, as a Vestryman and as holding other important posts in the records of this parish. As Vestryman his influence would necessarily be very wide; "The Vestries," says Bishop Meade, in his *Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia*, "were the depositaries of power in Virginia. They not only governed the Church by the election of ministers, the levying of taxes, the enforcing of laws, but they made laws in the House of Burgesses; for the burgesses were the most intelligent and influential men of the parish, and were mostly vestrymen."

Precisely who the wife of Robert Bevill the vestryman was we do not know, but her first name was Ann, and the couple had four sons and one daughter recorded in Bristol

Parish records. Whether there were others we cannot certainly tell, but we suspect there were. The children who are recorded were: James, born 2 November, 1721; Robert, 10 October, 1723; William, 2 October, 1726; Joseph, 11 December, 1730; Frances, 12 December, 1732. Of these children, the second, Robert, whose wife was named Sarah, removed to Georgia, where in December, 1759 he petitions for four hundred and fifty acres of land "to be located about four miles above Briar creek". In this petition Robert says that he has been in the Province of Georgia for a year, and that he has a wife and three children. On the 24th of April, 1760, he was selected by the Royal Commissioners and the Legislature to be one of the Commission for the Parish of St. George, in which he resided, to put the forts of the province in good repair, this action having become necessary by reason of the hostile attitude of the Cherokee Indians. In November, 1766, he was dead, for at that date Sarah Bevill, his widow, petitions for three hundred acres more land "on Briar creek, about two miles above Beaver dam", in her petition stating that her husband had had four hundred and fifty acres under a prior grant. She also mentions that she has five children. In February, 1767, Sarah unites with her neighbors, Nathaniel Miller, William Colson and Abraham Lundy in a petition for one thousand acres of land from which to cut timber, which petition was granted. On the 8th of March, 1774, Sarah gives a deed to her sons Robert, Paul and James Bevill, "for love and affection" of all personal property, of which, however, she retains for herself the use during her natural life. This deed, which is recorded in Effingham County, was witnessed by John Bonner and Thomas Lundy. On the 14th of March, 1774, Sarah Bevill,

widow of Robert, was married, secondly, to David Harris, of Burke County, Georgia. On the 21st of July, 1778, David Harris, planter, and his wife Sarah Bevill, of Burke County, deeded to William Colson and Paul Bevill three hundred acres in Burke County, bounded east by Briar creek, on all other sides by vacant land.

Paul Bevill, second son of Robert and Sarah of Effingham County, Georgia, born in Virginia about 1755 or '56, married in Effingham County, then St. Matthew's Parish, about 1780-82, Sarah Scruggs, daughter of Richard and Ann (Sisson) Scruggs, of the same parish, who like the Bevills, were originally from Virginia. In 1793, Screven County was laid out from Burke and Effingham counties, and thereafter Paul Bevill's plantation lay in both Effingham and Screven counties.

The Rev. George White in his *Statistics of the State of Georgia* (page 520), says that among the early settlers of Screven County were Lewis Lanier (collateral ancestor of Sidney Lanier, the poet), Captain Everett (a collateral ancestor of Rev. Dr. Edward Everett Hale), Paul Bevill, Richard Scruggs and Stephen Pearce. Three of these planters, Paul Bevill, Richard Scruggs, and Stephen Pearce, were great-great-grandfathers of the author of this book. These men were all Justices of the Peace, and officers of the several churches to which they belonged. All had the distinction of having served in the Revolution, and one of them, Richard Scruggs, was a member of the Council of Safety for the Province of Georgia. They were, of course, large landowners and were noted for kindness and strict justice in all their dealings with the dependants on their estates. Among the traditions of these planters is the laudable tradition that they always advocated good roads, good schools, and churches.

Paul Bevill and his wife, Sarah Scruggs, had sons, James, and Paul, Jr., the latter of whom was born 11 July 1788; and daughters, Sarah Ford Bevill, and one other, probably Frances, who was married to —— Garnett and had, among other children, a son, Paul Bevill Garnett. The last will and testament of Paul Bevill was made on the 24th of January, 1828, and probated 10 January, 1836. It reads as follows:

THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF PAUL BEVILL

In the name of God, amen — I, Paul Bevill of the State of Georgia and county of Effingham, being in good health and sound mind, considering the uncertainty of life, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say principally and first of all, I give and recommend my Soul to God who gave it, and my body to the Earth from whence it came to be buried in decent Christian burial at the discretion of my friends.

As touching such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give and dispose of in the following manner and form:—First:—I desire that all my just debts be paid. Secondly:—I give unto my beloved wife Sarah Bevill during her life time my real and personal estate with the exception of what has already been disposed of to my daughter Sarah Ford Bevill in deed of trust. Thirdly:—I give unto my grandson Paul Bevill Mathews one negro boy named Valentine, also one tract of land containing five hundred acres originally granted to John Lucas, also, one other tract containing five hundred and fifty acres granted to Paul Bevill, which property should the said Paul Bevill Mathews not arrive to the age of maturity shall be divided among his brothers and sisters.

Fourthly:—I give and bequeath unto my following named grandsons, Paul B. Garnet, Stephen P. Bevill, James Bevill, Claborn Bevill, John G. Bevill, Paul R. Bevill, and William

Colson the residue of my property viz: When Stephen P. Bevill shall come to years of maturity, or should he die, then the next oldest of my grandsons, the following negroes * * * * shall be divided into lots amounting in value equal one to another and divided according by giving to Stephen his portion, the balance to remain in the hands of my executors and delivered to my grandsons as they respectively arrive to the years of twenty-one, with this difference, that James Bevill shall receive one negro, or the value of an ordinary negro, more than either of the others, provided also, that if either of my before mentioned grandsons should die before receiving his portion, then his portion shall be divided among the remaining survivors. Again, I give unto my grandson James Bevill my brass-mounted rifle. Again, all my lands except what I have given away as before mentioned, shall be sold and the proceeds equally divided among the before named grandsons.

Lastly:— I do appoint John Goldwire Mathews and William H. Scruggs executors to this my last will and testament with the request that my first named executor shall manage alone the concerns of my estate as long as he may live, or until the same is completed, and I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke and annul all and every other testament, will, legacy and bequest by me in any way before named willed and bequeathed, satisfying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the twenty-fourth day of January Eighteen-hundred and twenty-eight.

PAUL BEVILL (L S)

Signed and sealed in the presence of us

Henry White
Ch. M. Hill
John J. Pitts, [Probated 10th January, 1836]

Paul Bevill, Jr., second son of Paul Bevill and his wife Sarah Scruggs, was born 11 July, 1788, married, first, in 1810

Mary Pearce, daughter of Stephen Pearce and his wife, Mary Mills, born 6 February, 1793. They had children: Stephen Pearce Bevill, born 14 January, 1811; Sarah Ann Bevill, born 4 November, 1812; and John Goldwire Bevill, born 7 September, 1814. Mary Pearce, wife of Paul Bevill, Jr., died 15 August, 1816, and Paul married, secondly, Eliza Rudolph (license granted 15 April, 1817). Of this marriage one child only was born, Paul Rudolph Bevill, who died 20 January, 1855, "aged about 35." Paul Bevill, Jr., died before January, 1820, for on that date "Paul Bevill, Sr., was appointed guardian of Stephen P. Bevill and John G. Bevill, minors and orphans of Paul Bevill, Jr., deceased; and Eliza W. Bevill was appointed guardian of Paul R. Bevill, minor and orphan of Paul Bevill, Jr." Paul Bevill, Jr.'s, widow, Eliza Rudolph, was married secondly "about or before 29 July, 1819, in Screven County, Georgia" to William Lundy, of a family that "can be traced back to Brunswick County, Virginia, associated with Laniers and other intermarried families of Burke, Screven, and Effingham counties, Georgia."

Stephen Pearce Bevill, elder son of Paul Bevill, Jr., and his wife Mary Pearce, was born 14 January, 1811, in Georgia, and married 28 November, 1833, Lavina Lipsey, born 10 May, 1811, daughter of William Lipsey and his wife Ann. Between 1835 and 1861 Mrs. Lavina Bevill bore her husband twelve children; she died 15 November, 1871. In 1851 Stephen Pearce Bevill removed with his family from Georgia to Alachua County, East Florida, several other Georgia families descended also from early Virginia colonists going at the same time. The occasion of their migrating to Florida was that ancestors of theirs had received large grants there while the colony belonged to Spain, and these grants were

now so valuable that it was important that they should be occupied.[6] One of these grants alone, given in 1767, was of the enormous extent of sixteen thousand acres, and was to William Mills, Jr., a great-grandfather of Stephen Pearce Bevill, and some four thousand acres of this had come into the possession of Mr. Bevill. To this inherited estate Bevill added by purchase, and he now owned a large plantation, on which he raised corn, cotton, poultry, and stock. Owning a spacious colonial house in Gainesville and several comfortable houses on his plantations, he with his family lived in the usual luxurious ease of the people of his station in the South. He owned, of course, a considerable number of slaves, the row of "quarters" for whom was so long that standing at one end one could not see to the other. On this plantation he gradually settled his sons, and, as his daughters married, no less than four of his sons-in-law.

The aristocratic spirit and bearing of the Southern gentry in the old days "before the War" is a matter of common knowledge, and Stephen Pearce Bevill was no exception to the rule. He was patrician in mind and manner, and in the parts of Georgia and Florida where his plantations lay, people of all ages treated him uniformly with a reverence that was almost awe. He was a Justice of the Peace, Clerk of the Alachua County court, and being reared in the Baptist faith, which a large number of other influential persons in Gainesville had adopted, senior deacon of the Gainesville Baptist Church. To his slaves he was so kind and faithful a master that three years after they were emancipated every one who was still alive had returned to his plantation and gladly reported to the familiar roll call. Erect of form, of great refinement of face and elegance of manner, with an

unmistakeable hauteur that prevented the slightest familiarity on the part of inferiors, conscious always of the proud traditions of his family, Stephen Bevill was yet a thoroughly kind Christian man. Whether he knew Emerson's precept or not, "Life is not so short but that there is always time enough for courtesy," he believed and practised it, and the memory he has left his descendants is of a true gentleman of an age that had gentlemen indeed. He died 29 April, 1894, and was buried in the cemetery of Gainesville, which he with others had set apart in 1852.

The children of Stephen Pearce Bevill and his wife Lavina Lipsey were: John Rieves, born 3 October, 1834, married Elizabeth Rain; Sarah Jane, born 2 December, 1836, died young; Robert Harper, born 9 October, 1838, married Jemima Simmons; Mary Lavisy, born 15 January, 1841, married first to John James Vaughan, second to Colonel Hamlin Valentine Snell; Stephen Calfrey, born 19 October, 1843, married first Frances McRae, second Annie Jones; Sarah Rebecca, born 16 January, 1845, married James Barrett Cullen; Frances Alethea, born 3 July, 1847, married to John W. Crichton; Ann Elizabeth, born 14 March, 1850, married first to George Francis Kinsey Beattie, second to James Henry Jarvis; Henry Lafayette, born 8 March, 1852, married Ellen McRae; Henrietta Rudolph, born 19 April, 1855, married to Louis Smith.

Mary Lavisy Beville, daughter of Stephen Pearce Bevill and his wife Lavina (Lipsey), was born 15 January, 1841, on her father's plantation in Effingham County, Georgia, about twenty-five miles from Savannah. She was married, first, in November, 1858, to John James Vaughan of Amelia Island, Florida, her parents as we have seen having removed in 1851 from Georgia to Alachua County, Florida, where after that

Agnes Beville Willetts

time she had lived. By her first marriage, Mary Beville had one child, Agnes Beville Vaughan, the author of this book. In the autumn of 1867, she was married, secondly, to Colonel Hamlin Valentine Snell, the most noted lawyer of his time in Florida, and a speaker of the House of Representatives, who was said by governors and judges of his state, his intimate friends, to have been the most influential advocate of the admission of Florida into the Union as a State. To her second husband Mary Beville bore two children: William Hamlin Snell, born 23 October, 1868, died 23 December, 1870; and much later, Frances Lavinia Snell. Mrs. Mary Beville Snell died at Gainesville, Florida, at what had been her father's town residence, 23 November, 1889, Colonel Snell having died about four years earlier.

Robert Harper Bevill, son of Stephen Pearce and Lavina (Lipsey) Bevill, born 9 October, 1838, married Jemima Simmons, and had two children, Alfred Stephen and Mary. Alfred Stephen Bevill married Ruby Young, and had two children, Julia and Mildred. Mary Beville was married to Louis C. Lynch, and had one son Haisley. Mary Lavisy Beville (Stephen Pearce and Lavina) was married as above. Ann Elizabeth Beville (Stephen Pearce and Lavina) was married to George Francis Kinsey Beattie and had two children, George Francis Kinsey Beattie, Jr., and Ann Beattie, the latter of whom was married to Ernest Ward Willetts, M. D., of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and has three children: Agnes Beville Willetts, born 26 November, 1906; Ernest Ward Willetts, Jr., born 14 February, 1909; Arthur Tedcastle Willetts, born 20 August, 1910. Mrs. Ann (Beville) Beattie was married second, in 1877 to James H. Jarvis of Virginia, and to him bore three children: Harry Lee Jarvis; Arthur Tedcastle Jarvis, and Blanche Jarvis.

THE BEVILLE DESCENDANTS

Essex[1] Bevill = Amy [Ann?] Butler

John[2] Bevill = Martha ——

Robert[3] Bevill = Ann ——

Robert[4] Bevill = Sarah ——

Paul[5] Bevill, Sr. = Sarah Scruggs

Paul[6] Bevill, Jr. = Mary Pearce

Stephen Pearce[7] Bevill = Lavina Lipsey

Mary Lavisy[8] Beville = John James Vaughan

Agnes Beville[9] Vaughan = Arthur White Tedcastle

Essex[1] Bevill = Amy [Ann?] Butler

John[2] Bevill = Martha ——

Robert[3] Bevill = Ann ——

Robert[4] Bevill = Sarah ——

Paul[5] Bevill, Sr. = Sarah Scruggs

Paul[6] Bevill, Jr. = Mary Pearce

Stephen Pearce[7] Bevill = Lavina Lipsey

Ann[8] Beville = (1) George Francis Kinsey Beattie

(2) James Henry Jarvis

Anne[9] Beattie = Ernest Ward Willetts, Sr., M.D.

Agnes Beville[10] Willetts

Ernest Ward[10] Willetts, Jr.

Arthur Tedcastle[10] Willetts

Essex[1] Bevill = Amy [Ann?] Butler

John[2] Bevill = Martha ——

Robert[3] Bevill = Ann ——

Robert[4] Bevill = Sarah ——

Paul[5] Bevill, Sr. = Sarah Scruggs

Paul[6] Bevill, Jr. = Mary Pearce

Stephen Pearce[7] Bevill = Lavina Lipsey

Ann[8] Beville = (1) George Francis Kinsey Beattie

(2) James Henry Jarvis

Arthur Tedcastle[9] Jarvis, Sr. = ——

Arthur Tedcastle[10] Jarvis, Jr.

Essex[1] Bevill = Amy [Ann?] Butler

John[2] Bevill = Martha ——

Robert[3] Bevill = Ann ——

Robert[4] Bevill = Sarah ——

Paul[5] Bevill, Sr. = Sarah Scruggs

Paul[6] Bevill, Jr. = Mary Pearce

Stephen Pearce[7] Bevill = Lavina Lipsey

Robert Harper[8] Bevill = Jemima Simmons

Alfred Stephen[9] Bevill = Ruby Young

Julia[10] Beville = Jonathan Yerkes

Mildred[10] Beville

Essex[1] Bevill = Amy [Ann?] Butler

John[2] Bevill = Martha ——

Robert[3] Bevill = Ann ——

Robert[4] Bevill = Sarah ——

Paul[5] Bevill, Sr. = Sarah Scruggs

Paul[6] Bevill, Jr. = Mary Pearce

Stephen Pearce[7] Bevill = Lavina Lipsey

Robert Harper[8] Bevill = Jemima Simmons

Mary[9] Beville = Louis C. Lynch

Haisley[10] Lynch

Essex[1] Bevill = Amy [Ann?] Butler

John[2] Bevill = Martha ——

Robert[3] Bevill = Ann ——

Robert[4] Bevill = Sarah ——

Robert[5] Bevill = Sarah (Williams) Hudson

Granville[6] Bevill, Sr. = Sarah Ann Bonnell

Granville[7] Bevill, Jr. = Patience Mobley

Daniel Earl[8] Beville = Martha Jane Mobley

George Granville[9] Beville = (1) Bird Biddle
(2) Pattie Scott

Etta M.[10] Beville = James Edward Slaughter

Essex[1] Bevill = Amy [Ann?] Butler

John[2] Bevill = Martha ——

Robert[3] Bevill = Ann ——

Robert[4] Bevill = Sarah ——

Robert[5] Bevill = Sarah (Williams) Hudson

Granville[6] Bevill, Sr. = Sarah Ann Bonnell

Julia[7] Beville = Ezekiel Samuel Candler, Sr.

Ezekiel S.[8] Candler, Jr. = Nancy Priscilla Hazlewood

Daniel Beville[8] Candler = Dora Candler

Charles Granville[8] Candler

Julia Ada[8] Candler

Milton Asa[8] Candler = Elizabeth McKinney

Essex[1] Bevill = Amy [Ann?] Butler

John[2] Bevill = Martha ——

Robert[3] Bevill = Ann ——

Robert[4] Bevill = Sarah ——

Robert[5] Bevill = Sarah (Williams) Hudson

Granville[6] Bevill, Sr. = Sarah Ann Bonnell

Julia[7] Beville = Ezekiel Samuel Candler, Sr.

Ezekiel S.[8] Candler, Jr. = Nancy Priscilla Hazlewood

Julia Beville[9] Candler = Franklin Gregory Swift

Susan Hazlewood[9] Candler = Wm. E. Small, Jr.

Lucy Alice[9] Candler

Essex[1] Bevill = Amy [Ann?] Butler

John[2] Bevill = Martha ——

Robert[3] Bevill = Ann ——

Robert[4] Bevill = Sarah ——

Robert[5] Bevill = Sarah (Williams) Hudson

Claiborne[6] Bevill = Susannah Daly

Henrietta[7] Beville = Henry J. Strobahr

Ida Claiborne[8] Strobahr = James Oliver

Henrietta[8] Strobahr = C. C. Purse

Noble[8] Strobahr = —— Strobahr

Rebecca[8] Strobahr = Habersham King

Cecil[8] Strobahr = (1) Lou Oliver Bryant

(2) Asselia Gaschet de L'Isle

Garnett[8] Strobahr = Lola Crawford

Essex[1] Bevill = Amy [Ann?] Butler

John[2] Bevill = Martha ——

Robert[3] Bevill = Ann ——

Robert[4] Bevill = Sarah ——

Robert[5] Bevill = Sarah (Williams) Hudson

Claiborne[6] Bevill = Susannah Daly

Henrietta[7] Beville = Henry J. Strobahr

Henrietta Beville[8] Strobahr = C. C. Purse

Elizabeth[9] Purse

Roberta[9] Purse

Essex[1] Bevill = Amy [Ann?] Butler

John[2] Bevill = Martha ——

Robert[3] Bevill = Ann ——

Robert[4] Bevill = Sarah ——

Robert[5] Bevill = Sarah (Williams) Hudson

Robert[6] Bevill = Nancy ——

Scruggs[7] Bevill = ——

Granville[8] Bevill, 3d = ——

Scruggs[9] Bevill = ——

Granville[10] Beville (daughter)

THE VAUGHAN FAMILY

"I sing New England, as she lights her fire
In every Prairie's midst; and where the bright
Enchanting stars shine pure through Southern night,
She still is there."

William Ellery Channing

CHAPTER III

THE VAUGHAN FAMILY

ABOUT 1796 a young American lieutenant, John Vaughan, who the previous year had been stationed at the little military post known as "Burnt Fort," in southeastern Georgia, on the Satilla river, received from the Spanish Government a large grant on Amelia Island, in the extreme northeastern portion of Florida, just below the St. Mary's river. The exact extent and date of his grant we do not know, for at the time he obtained it, as for many years before and for nearly a quarter of a century after, the loose Spanish control of northern Florida and the constant entanglements of the nominal government there with the governments of France, England, and the United States, made the keeping of accurate records almost an impossibility. During his brief term of military service at Burnt Fort, as we suppose, Vaughan met Rhoda Effingham, whose uncle had a plantation at Peter's Point, in Camden County, Georgia, not far from the fort, and about 1797 married her, afterwards retiring to his Sea Island plantation, where he spent the rest of his life.

John Vaughan was not a Southerner but was a native of Massachusetts, where he was born probably in 1762. His parents were Henry Vaughan, Jr., and his wife, Mary Humphrey, both also natives of Dorchester, his mother's family being one of the most conspicuous families in that historic Massachusetts town.

The Vaughan family is not found in Dorchester earlier than 1736, its founders there being Henry Vaughan, Sr., and his wife Elizabeth, who so far as we can see bore no immediate relationship to any other family of Vaughans in New England, and who may have come, a young couple recently married, directly from England or Wales. In April, 1737, Henry Vaughan was declared eligible in Dorchester for jury duty; 9 May, 1739, he and others petitioned that the part of Dorchester where they resided should be annexed to the town of Dedham, and to Dedham, accordingly, this part of Dorchester was annexed. Thenceforth, then, we find the Vaughans residents of Dedham, their home, as a writer in the *Dedham Historical Register* (Vol. 1, pp. 98, 99) says, being on or near what is now Readville Street, this location being determined by the fact that Henry Vaughan "owned land running from Mother Brook, across River Street, and nearly to Readville Street."[7]

In the Dedham and Dorchester Town and Church records we find the births and baptisms carefully given of three, and only three, children of Henry and Elizabeth Vaughan. These children were: Henry, born 31 August, baptized 31 October, 1736; Elizabeth, born 4 April, baptized 8 April, 1739; and John, born 13 May, baptized 26 May, 1745. Of these children, Henry, the eldest, married in Dorchester (by Rev. Jonathan Bowman), 20 August, 1761, Mary Humphrey, born 8 April, 1730, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Leeds) Humphrey of Dorchester, who is said in the Humphrey Genealogy to have died in December, 1804. From the Dorchester Vital Records we learn that a Henry Vaughan died 31 August, 1769, and this we believe to have been Henry Vaughan, Jr., rather than his father. On the

Register of the First Church in Dorchester (from 1729 to 1845) we find recorded the baptisms of two children of Henry, Jr., and Mary (Humphrey) Vaughan, — Mary, baptized 8 July, 1764, and Henry, baptized 18 May, 1766; but they had possibly two children, certainly one, born between the date of their marriage and the date of the baptism of the child Mary as given above. Their first child, as we believe, who lived, was the lieutenant of Burnt Fort and the Florida planter, John Vaughan, whose tombstone records his birth as occurring on the thirteenth of March, 1763, but who must have been born, we think, in 1762.

On the second of January, 1777, announcing his age as sixteen,[8] John Vaughan entered military service in Massachusetts for the period of the Revolution. As the Massachusetts military records testify, and as he himself at later times declared, on this date he enlisted as a private in Captain Wiley's company, Colonel Michael Jackson's regiment. On the 4th of June, 1833, when he was, so he says, "seventy" years old, desiring to receive the bounty land "promised" him by the United States for his Revolutionary service, he appeared before Nicholas Biddle Van Zandt, Justice of the Peace in the city of Washington, and made oath that in January, 1777, he entered the service of the United States "for the term of during the war," and that he "served in the company commanded by Captain Wiley, in the Regiment No. 8, commanded by Colonel Michael Jackson of the Massachusetts line," and that he "was honorably discharged at the close of the War in the year 1783, from the Regiment commanded by Colonel M. Jackson aforesaid." On the thirty-first of March, 1856, when he was, as he says, "ninety-three" years old, desiring to receive bounty land

for service he had rendered in the "Indian War" after the Revolution, he appeared before John Johnson, Justice of the Peace in Nassau County, Florida, and made oath that he was "the identical John Vaughan who was a private in the Massachusetts Line in the Revolutionary war, as will be seen by reference to the Pension Office; also in the Company of Captain Pierce in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Hamer in the year 1785, in the then Indian War, and was mustered into the United States Service in Germantown, and was in the service for the space of twelve months, as will be seen by reference to the proper Department, and was honorably discharged, at place not recollected, some time in 1786. He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which he may be entitled under Act passed by Congress on March 3, 1855." In the next and final paragraph of his sworn declaration, he says that for his service in the Revolution he had received from Congress as bounty land one hundred acres.

From these sworn declarations of Vaughan, and from other official records, we learn, then, that the military service of this young Massachusetts soldier covered in all a period of some nineteen years. After the Revolution, he was, probably continuously, in service in Pennsylvania and other states, finally at the State House at Augusta, Georgia, on the tenth of January, 1795, being appointed "Lieutenant of the Department of the militia at Burnt Fort, and to continue as such until the first of January, 1796, unless sooner discharged." When the war of 1812 came, although living then on his Florida plantation, under the government of Spain, he owned land in Georgia, and was still an American citizen. Accordingly, fired with a spirit of loyalty to his

country, he left his family on his plantation, crossed into Georgia, and once more entering military service, remained in the army until the end of the war.

John Vaughan married, as we have seen, about 1797, Rhoda Effingham, niece of Thomas Harvey Miller, owner of a notable plantation at Peter's Point, in Georgia, near St. Mary's, and not far from the Florida line. Her mother was Pharaba Miller whose kinsman, Phineas Miller, married 19 July, 1796, at Philadelphia, Mrs. Catharine Greene, widow of General Nathanial Greene. In each generation of this Miller family since the Revolution there have been noted lawyers, as, for example, Stephen D. Miller, author of *The Bench and Bar of Georgia*, and Andrew J. Miller of Augusta, to whose memory the women of Georgia erected a monument in his home city Augusta, soon after his death.

At some period in his career, possibly because of the presence of some other John Vaughan near him in military service, or in the county where he finally settled, John Vaughan adopted as a middle initial the letter "D", and in his later years was known commonly as John "D" Vaughan. He died on his plantation on the 16th of April, 1860, and was buried in a private burying-ground on his estate. The tombstone first erected to his memory was destroyed during an uprising of the negroes on Amelia Island, at the beginning of the civil war. The Federal Government punished the negroes for their offence, and erected a shaft which now stands at the head of his grave. On the east side of the shaft the inscription reads:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY
OF
JOHN D. VAUGHAN
BORN IN BOSTON, MASS., MARCH 13, 1763,
DIED IN
NASSAU COUNTY FLORIDA
APRIL 16, 1860
AGED
97 YEARS

On the north side appears:

HE BLED FOR LIBERTY AND BEQUEATHED AS A LEGACY TO HIS POSTERITY RESISTANCE TO TYRANNY AND OPPRESSION. PEACE TO THE ASHES OF THE TRULY GREAT.

On the west:

ALMOST THE LAST OF THE HEROES OF THE REVOLUTION, HIS LIFE FADED CALMLY. IT WAS MARKED BY ALL THOSE VIRTUES WHICH ADORN A HERO, EVENTFUL AND DETERMINED.

HE LIVED RESPECTED.
HE DIED BELOVED.
RHODA
HIS WIFE.

On the south side:

WHEN IN COMING YEARS THE STRANGER SHALL READ THIS EPITAPH, REMEMBER THAT THIS MONUMENT MARKS THE SPOT OF ONE WHO LIVED IN TIMES WHICH TRIED MEN'S SOULS, AND THAT HE ASSISTED IN BEQUEATHING TO YOU THE RICH LEGACY YOU NOW ENJOY.

SACRED BE THE SPOT.

The Daughters of the American Revolution of the State of Florida have lately petitioned his family for a deed of his grave, which they wish to honour perpetually in tribute to his service to the country.

The children of John D. Vaughan and his wife Rhoda Effingham were: Daniel, born in 1800; Pharaba Jane, married to General James Gignilliat Cooper; and William, born in 1806.

WILL OF JOHN DANIEL VAUGHAN.

In the Name of God Amen.

The Last Will and Testament of John Daniel Vaughan.

I John Daniel Vaughan of the County of Nassau and State of Florida being in good bodily health and of sound mind and memory calling to mind the frailty and uncertainty of human life and being desirous of settling my wordly affairs and directing how the estates with which it has pleased God to bless me shall be disposed of after my decease while I have strength and capacity so to do do make and publish this my Last Will and Testament hereby revoking and making null and void all other last wills and testaments by me heretofore made.

And First I commend my immortal being to him who gave it and my body to the earth to be decently interred.

And as to my wordly estate and all the property real personal or mixed of which I shall die seized and possessed or to which I shall be entitled at the time of my decease I demise bequeath and dispose thereof in the manner following towit

Imprimis my will is that all my just debts and funeral expenses shall by my executors hereinafter named be paid out of my estate as soon after my decease as shall by them be found convenient. Item I give bequeath and devise my whole and entire interest and property in negro Slaves in the following manner to wit In three equal shares or divisions

The first share I give devise and bequeath to Eliza Vaughan the wife of my oldest son Daniel Vaughan to hold to her and the children of her body by my said son Daniel forever The second share or division that is one third of my whole number of negroes I give and bequeath in the following manner to wit One half of said share division or third I give and bequeath to my second and youngest son William Vaughan To have and To hold in his own proper right in fee simple; the other half of said share division or third I give and bequeath equally to the Three children of my said son William Vaughan he being their Natural guardian until their majority The Third and last share division of my whole negro property I give devise and bequeath to my only daughter Jane Pharaba Cooper To have and To hold to her and her heirs forever Item I give devise and bequeath to Eliza Vaughan aforesaid Two hundred and fifty acres of land being situate on Amelia Island in said County To have and To hold to her as aforesaid Item I give devise and bequeath to my grandson Horace Vaughan three lots of land situate in the Town of Fernandina according to the survey of said Town on said Amelia Island in said State and County Item I give devise and bequeath to my said daughter Jane Pharaba Cooper Three hundred and fifty acres of land being situate in Nassau County aforesaid in said State commencing at the North line and running direct south being lying and situate on the North Branch of Nassau river Item I give devise and bequeath to my said son William Vaughan Three hundred and fifty acres of land being a portion of same tract a part of which tract of which I devised as above to my daughter Jane Pharaba Cooper said portion so devised to my said son William to commence at the south line of said tract and to run North Item I give devise and bequeath to my Two granddaughters May and Jane the daughters of my son William Vaughan aforesaid Seventy five acres of land each making one hundred and fifty acres between the two said land being situate in said tract with the land bequeathed as aforesaid to my

daughter Jane Pharaba Cooper and my son William Vaughan Item I give bequeath and devise to my two sons Daniel and William Vaughan and my daughter Jane Pharaba Cooper equally my present residence known as Mount Hope with the condition that the same containing two hundred acres of land shall be appraised and if either of said three heirs shall desire to reside at said place and shall well and truly pay to the other two named heirs their respective proportions of said appraisement then the said place to become the property of such an one so paying Item I will that all my horses cattle plantation tools and utensils and all other personal property that I own shall be appraised and the nett proceeds thereof be equally distributed between my sons and daughters aforesaid Item I give bequeath and devise to Charles P. Cooper the sum of One hundred Dollars for the professional services rendered which I do of my own free will and accord. Item I will that if William Russell of said State and County shall or will pay or cause to be paid the remainder at balance on a certain mortgage held by me upon a female slave named Patty and her children together with simple interest on the same within the time prescribed by law to close estates then the bill of sale I have to said property be cancelled and said property to be delivered up to him Lastly I do nominate and appoint James G. Cooper of Nassau County State of Fla and Charles P. Cooper of Duval County and State aforesaid to be the executors of this my last will and testament

In testimony Whereof I the said John Daniel Vaughan have to this my last will and testament contained on this shingle sheet of paper and opon the four pages thereof inscribed my name and affixed my seal this 18th day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight and forty nine

JOHN D. VAUGHAN (Seal)

Signed Sealed and published by the said John Daniel Vaughan as and for his last will and testament in presence

of us who at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as Witnesses hereto

Charles M. Cooper
Michael Hearn Jr
Isadore V. Gamie

State of Florida
County of Nassau

Personally appeared Isadore V. Gamie who being duly sworn deposeth and sayeth that he was present and saw the testator John D. Vaughan sign seal publish and declare the foregoing instrument of writing as and for his last will and testament that at the time of the signing the same Testator was of sound mind and memory.

That deponent and Charles M. Cooper and Michael Hearn Jr at the Request of testator and in his presence and in presence of each other subscribe their names as Witnesses thereto.

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 21st day of May 1860

Isadore V. Gamie.

Geo Stewart
Judge of Probate Nassau County

State of Florida
County of Nassau

I Geo Stewart Judge of Probate for the County and State above written do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a full true and correct copy of the last will and testament of John D. Vaughan as on file and record in this office.

In witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Probate Court this 30th day of May A. D. 1860.

Geo Stewart (Seal)
Judge &c

It is to be observed in John D. Vaughan's will that no names of slaves were given, the reason being that the large number of them owned by him made it well-nigh impossible to mention them individually.

Daniel Vaughan, son of John D. and Rhoda Effingham Vaughan, was born on his maternal grandfather's plantation in Georgia in 1800, and married, first, Elizabeth Harrison, daughter of Captain Samuel Harrison of Amelia Island, and sister of Colonel Robert Harrison, one of the most affluent and best known of the Sea Island planters. His wife died very soon, leaving no children, and he married secondly, about 1825, Eliza Chisholm Pelot Harrison, born in 1805 on her father's estate "The Meadows", about seven miles north of Darien, McIntosh County, Georgia, daughter of Horace Jesse Harrison and his wife Mary Martha Pelot (whose mother was Elizabeth Chisholm). Daniel Vaughan inherited part of his father's plantation on Amelia Island, which he managed progressively for several years before his father's death. This plantation was one of three or four into which the whole of Amelia Island was divided, its extent being easily imagined when it is known that Daniel Vaughan and his father together owned about five hundred slaves. On this plantation he spent his life, his death being occasioned by a steamboat explosion near St. Simon's Island, off the coast of Georgia, in 1856. He was buried in the Vaughan burying ground on the plantation. His wife, Eliza C. Pelot Harrison, died some time before 1875.

The children of Daniel and Eliza Chisholm Pelot (Harrison) Vaughan were five: Mary A. Chisholm, born in 1827, married to her cousin Charles Pelot, a lawyer; Elizabeth S., born in 1829, married to Dr. Sullivan, of Greenville, South

Carolina; Horace Daniel, born in 1831, married a Spanish lady, Manuella Noberta, and was killed in the Civil War; Susan Jane, born in 1833, married to Colonel Thaddeus A. MacDonnell, "a brilliant attorney and a true type of the Southern gentleman," who was born on Amelia Island, 7 February, 1831, and in the Civil War a brave officer, was appointed on Jefferson Davis's special staff; *John James,* born in 1838, married, first, Mary Lavisy Beville; Franklin Decatur, born in 1838, died unmarried, in the Confederate service in the Civil War. Of these children; Horace Daniel Vaughan by his wife Manuella Noberta had children: Horace Glanville, died unmarried; Mary Elizabeth, married to Warren Scott, and had among her children, Rilla Scott, married to Sydney Pons, and who had three sons; Florence Marcella, married to Adolphus Cavado; Daniel Francis, now living in Greenville, South Carolina; and Ella Virginia, died in infancy. Susan Jane Vaughan, to her husband Colonel Thaddeus A. MacDonnell bore children: Braxton Bragg MacDonnell; Donald MacDonnell; and Sydney Johnston MacDonnell.

John James Vaughan, son of Daniel and Eliza Pelot Harrison Vaughan, born 18 September, 1835, married first in November, 1858, Mary Lavisy Beville, born as we have shown in our account of the Beville family, on her father's plantation in Effingham County, Georgia, fourteenth January 1841. Two high-spirited young people, both reared luxuriously and the idols of their parents, their married life through unfortunate temperamental differences early came to an end, Mrs. Vaughan returning to her father's plantation, where her daughter Agnes Beville was born, and resuming her maiden name. Some years after the law had

Agnes Obedience Beville Tedcastle
and her "Grandchild"
Agnes Beville Willetts

separated Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan, both married again. John James Vaughan died in Florida in November, 1914. In the Civil War he and his two brothers enlisted in the First Florida Regiment for service during the war. His two brothers were killed in battle, but he, though wounded nine times, survived. Among other battles he took part in the battles of Shiloh and Missionary Ridge. From the Civil War he went to Cuba and served in the ten years rebellion there. Then he retired to his island home.

On the twenty-second of November, 1882, Agnes Beville Vaughan, was married at Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida, the town of which her grandfather Beville was one of the founders and most distinguished citizens, to Arthur White Tedcastle, who was born in London on Christmas Day, 1855. His father was William Porteous Tedcastle, who when he came of age took the royal road to London, and entered the office of the Lloyds. Late in the fifties, however, he came to New York, where he took a position with a friend, of equal importance with the one he had filled in London, and this he held until January, 1866, when he suddenly died. William Tedcastle's wife was Julia Riddiough Nuttall, born 23 December, 1827, daughter of Peter Austin Nuttall, one of the most learned Englishmen of his time, whose name through his eminent *Pronouncing Dictionary of the English Language* and many other philological, classical, and archaeological studies, is one of the best known and most highly venerated in the world of English scholarship. To be the grandson of so eminent a scholar as Mr. Nuttall is unquestionably no small distinction. This gentleman, who, as became a great scholar, was one of the most modest of men, was a graduate of Oxford and a doctor of laws of that an-

cient university. He was for years part owner and editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and at one time was asked to take the editorship of *Punch*. Had he done this he would probably have much advanced his fortune, but his answer to the request that he assume the leadership of *Punch* was that the publication was "too frivolous" for him to connect himself with. He died at his home in London some time during the American Civil War, passing quietly away at his desk in the act of writing some scholarly article, probably for publication. His most widely known work is his *Pronouncing Dictionary of the English Language*, but he was also the author of *A Classical and Archaeological Dictionary of the Manners, Customs, Laws, Institutions, Arts, etc., of the Celebrated Nations of Antiquity and of the Middle Ages;* a *Dictionary of Scientific Terms;* translator of Juvenal's Satires, the Works of Horace, etc.; editor of *Fuller's Worthies of England;* and author and compiler of numerous valuable educational works, some of which like his translations are in use by scholars at the University of Oxford at the present time.

Of Dr. Nuttall's daughter, Julia, the wife of William Tedcastle and mother of Arthur Tedcastle, a word also ought to be said. This lady inherited much of her father's scholarly tastes and no little of his ability. She lived, unfortunately, at a time when scholarship was not expected in women but was rather frowned on as unfeminine, and her training under an English governess was distinctly along the conventional lines that are so well depicted by Miss Jane Austen in her inimitable stories. Julia Nuttall, however, in spite of the entreaties and frowns of both her mother and her governess, insisted on being her father's amanuensis, and the result of

Granted year 1590
to John Tedcastle of London, Eng.
and Elizabeth May his Wife

her work in his study and with him was that she contributed herself not a few articles of interest, which she always signed merely with her initials "J. R.", to the *Gentleman's Magazine*. When she married and came to America her literary work necessarily ceased, for her family was large and the care of them demanded her whole attention.

She died in England, at the home of her only daughter, Florence, Mrs. Edward Tindall, at Bidborough, near Tunbridge Wells, in Kent, in December, 1915. William and Julia Tedcastle had eight children, seven sons and one daughter, all of whom except three died young. The fifth of these children is the husband of the author of this book.

THE VAUGHAN DESCENDANTS

Henry[1] Vaughan, Sr. = Elizabeth ——

Henry[2] Vaughan, Jr. = Mary Humphrey

John[3] Vaughan = Rhoda Effingham

Daniel[4] Vaughan = Eliza C. Pelot Harrison

John James[5] Vaughan = Mary Lavisy Beville

Agnes Beville[6] Vaughan = Arthur White Tedcastle

Henry[1] Vaughan, Sr. = Elizabeth ——

Henry[2] Vaughan, Jr. = Mary Humphrey

John[3] Vaughan = Rhoda Effingham

Daniel[4] Vaughan = Eliza C. Pelot Harrison

Horace Daniel[5] Vaughan = Manuella Noberta

Mary Elizabeth[6] Vaughan = Warren Scott

Aurilla[7] Scott = Sydney Pons

Sydney Scott[8] Pons

Aubray Canora[8] Pons

John Daniel Horace[8] Pons

Henry[1] Vaughan, Sr. = Elizabeth ——

Henry[2] Vaughan, Jr. = Mary Humphrey

John[3] Vaughan = Rhoda Effingham

Daniel[4] Vaughan = Eliza C. Pelot Harrison

Susan Jane[5] Vaughan = Col. Thaddeus A. MacDonnell

Braxton Bragg[6] MacDonnell

Donald[6] MacDonnell

Sydney Johnston[6] MacDonnell

Henry[1] Vaughan, Sr. = Elizabeth ——

Henry[2] Vaughan, Jr. = Mary Humphrey

John[3] Vaughan = Rhoda Effingham

Pharaba[4] Vaughan = Gen. James Gignilliat Cooper.

Charles[5] Cooper

Mary[5] Cooper

James Gignilliat[5] Cooper

THE HARRISON FAMILY

"It is indeed a desirable thing to be well descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors."

Plutarch.

CHAPTER IV

THE HARRISON FAMILY

THE first member of the Harrison family of Virginia to appear in South Carolina was Thomas Harrison, who was ordained to the office of deacon of the Baptist Church at Euhaw, near Beaufort, by the Rev. Oliver Hart, A. M., pastor of the Baptist Church at Charleston, on the eleventh of January, 1752. Although it is impossible at present, owing to the destruction of both public and private records by fire and by the devastation of war, to produce legal proof of the fact, we have strong reason to believe that Thomas Harrison was not descended from the Harrisons of Wakefield, Virginia, from whom descend the Harrisons of Berkeley and Brandon on the James River. Like others of our ancestors he was a Sea Island planter,[9] on a large scale, of rice, indigo, and cotton, owning a considerable number of slaves and exerting the widest influence in the part of the South where his plantation was situated. It is known from collateral wills that his second wife was a Hannah Sealy, a sister of the first wife of the Rev. Francis Pelot, and cousin of the second wife of the Rev. Oliver Hart. His first wife was Mary ——.

Of the full number of his family, we are not sure, but he had a son William, who married Miss Gignilliat, of the distinguished family of this name of South Carolina and later of Georgia. A son of William and his wife was Horace Jesse Harrison, a gentleman noted for his noble bearing, his strictly upright and honourable dealings with men of all grades, his wisdom and justice in the management of his slaves, his brilliant conversational gifts, and what is especially remembered of him by his own descendants and the descendants of contemporaries, his remarkable genius for friendship. Mr. Harrison was a Colonel of the militia of Darien, and served under General Francis Hopkins, his intimate friend and neighbor, in the war of 1812. His wife was Mary Martha Pelot, daughter of James Pelot and his wife Elizabeth Chisholm, and granddaughter of the Rev. Francis Pelot and his first wife, Martha Sealy. She was a woman of marked intelligence, great beauty, and truly queenly bearing. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison lived on their plantation "The Meadows," about six miles from Darien, and there reared a large family of three sons and six daughters. Of these children, a daughter, Caroline, shortly before engaged to a Mr. Merrill of Georgia and South Carolina, and two young sons, Samuel and Benjamin, were drowned at "The Meadows" in September, 1824, in the worst hurricane and tidal storm with which the southern coast of the United States was ever visited. It is interesting to note that the ancient records of the Presbyterian Church in Darien show that the five remaining daughters, with their grandfather William Harrison (their father having died in 1816 from an injury received in the war of 1812), united with the church in 1823.

These Harrison sisters were celebrated for their distinguished bearing, beauty, and wit. They were all married to men of marked ability and notable lineage, several of whom were at once lawyers and large planters. Our grandmother, Eliza Chisholm Pelot Harrison, the eldest, was married to Daniel Vaughan, eldest son of the young Massachusetts Lieutenant who settled on Amelia Island, Florida, on his Spanish grant, late in the eighteenth century. The second, Sarah Gignilliat, was married first to Isaac Snow of Rhode Island, who was the father of her twelve children, secondly to the distinguished Major Blue of Georgia, grandfather of the Hulls of Savannah, thirdly to Colonel A. A. Gaulding, an able lawyer and editor of Atlanta. The fourth daughter, Mary Amanda, was married to Henry Young of Savannah ; the fifth, Susan Marion, was the wife of Tudor Tucker Hall of South Carolina ; the sixth, Jane, was married to the Rev. Dr. Dodd, a scholarly Presbyterian clergyman of Augusta. Dr. Dodd was directly succeeded in the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church of Augusta by the Rev. Dr. Joseph Ruggles Wilson, father of the Hon. Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States. When Dr. Dodd and his talented wife removed from Augusta they went to Roswell, Georgia, where Dr. Dodd became principal of the noted Roswell Academy, at which Institution many of the young sons and daughters of the aristocratic planters of the South were educated. Among his first pupils there was Martha Bullock, who afterward became the mother of Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt.

The one son of Horace Jesse Harrison who lived to manhood was Horace Nephew Harrison, a Lieutenant in the United States Navy. He married Rebecca Somerville of

Baltimore and Washington and had two sons, who died in boyhood on Sapelo Island, Georgia, and four daughters, one of whom became the wife of Edward Codrington Carrington, an able lawyer of Baltimore. The Carringtons had with other children two sons, Edward C. Carrington, Jr., and Campbell Carrington, lawyers of Baltimore and New York. Lieutenant Horace Nephew Harrison's other daughters were Mary Rebecca, who was married to Major W. F. Johnson; Camilla, who died young, and Marion Amanda, who was married to Captain Addison Barrett. The sons who died young were Randolph and Henry.

Admiral James Harrison Oliver, of the United States Navy, whom President Wilson has appointed the first Governor of "The Virgin Islands," formerly known as the Danish West Indies, is of this Harrison family of Georgia. Benjamin Harrison, a great-grandfather of Admiral Oliver, was a member of the Convention which revised the Constitution of the State of Georgia at the end of the eighteenth century. Benjamin married Charity Williams (died 1854), and had James, Dorcas, Charlotte, and perhaps others. Of these, Dorcas (born 29 October, 1802, died 18 September, 1830) married William Oliver (born 10 December 1798, died 1836) and had, among others, Thaddeus Oliver, who married Sarah P. Lawson and had James Harrison and other children. James Harrison Oliver married, in 1882, Marion, daughter of Robert Carter, Esqr., of the famous family of that name of Northern Virginia, and whose fine estate "Shirley," on the James River, is still occupied by the family.

Despite the traditions of several generations of descendants and the sincere belief of many worthy persons now living that these Harrisons of South Carolina and Georgia

Lieut. Commander Horace Nephew Harrison
United States Navy

belonged to the James River family, the author is convinced after several years' research among Probate Court Records and land transactions, that Thomas Harrison, of South Carolina, descended from the "Harrisons of Northern Virginia."

Mr. William G. Stanard, the distinguished historian and genealogist of Virginia, says, "Probably no Virginia family of equal note has had so little systematic genealogical work done in regard to its history as that of Harrison, which, first settling in Stafford, extended to Prince William, Fauquier, Loudoun and other counties, and which for purposes of distinction may be called Harrison of Northern Virginia . . . . the subject is full of difficulty, owing chiefly to the destruction of so large a part of the records of Stafford and Prince William Counties, during the Civil War."[10] The distinguished family of "Harrison of Northern Virginia" was founded by Cuthbert[1] Harrison, who in 1637 was resident in the parish of St. Margarets, Westminster, London. The parish register of St. Margarets shows that Burr, son of Cuthbert Harrison, was baptized 3 January, 1637, that Cuthbert, son of Cuthbert, was baptized 11 January, 1607, and that Alexander, son of Cuthbert and Susan Harrison, was baptized in 1644. Cuthbert's eldest son Burr[2] Harrison, emigrated to Virginia and settled in Stafford County, where we find him a Justice in 1698. He died intestate in 1706. He married in Virginia the widow of Edward Smith. She bore him a son Thomas[3], (born 7 September, 1665) who died 13 August, 1746. He had children: William[4]; Burr[4]; Thomas[4]; and Cuthbert[4]. July 10th, 1700, Thomas[3] (Burr[2]), of "Chappawamsie," is included among the civil and military officers of Stafford County. William[4] (Thomas[3], Burr[2], Cuthbert[1]) with his

father and others obtained a grant of land in Stafford County in 1706. Mr. Stanard says: "He was appointed a justice of Prince William County in 1731 and was vestryman of Overwharton Parish, Stafford, in 1746. The index to the lost Stafford deed book 1729-1748 refers to the inventory of the estate of William Harrison, deceased, so he probably died in Stafford between 1746 and 1748." William[4] Harrison (Thomas[3]) married Sarah Hawley and had issue: William[5] who died in 1750; and Thomas[5], who was beyond reasonable doubt the deacon at Euhaw, South Carolina, in 1752, and whose will of date May 3rd, 1755, is recorded in Charleston, South Carolina.

Thomas[4] Harrison (Thomas[3]) born —, died in December, 1773, was appointed a justice of Prince William in 1731, and was sheriff of that county in 1733. From 1742 to 1769 he was Burgess for Prince William County, but when Fauquier County was set off from Prince William, he became a resident of Fauquier. His wife was Ann, and they had children: William[5]; Thomas[5]; Burr[5]; Susannah[5]; Mary[5]; Ann[5]; Benjamin[5]. Of these children, Burr[5], (Thomas[4], Thomas[3], Burr[2], Cuthbert[1]), removed to South Carolina soon after the Revolution, following the example of his first cousin, Thomas[5] (William[4], Thomas[3], Burr[2], Cuthbert[1]) who had become a citizen of that Province some years earlier. Burr[5] (Thomas[4]) born 1738 in Virginia, died in Chester District, South Carolina, in 1822, having gone there after serving under General LaFayette in the war of the Revolution. He married, in South Carolina, Elizabeth Dargan, of Sumpter District, South Carolina. Burr[5] and Elizabeth (Dargan) Harrison had children: 1. Benjamin, married Nancy Hart, and lived in Columbia, South Carolina; 2. Mary, married Benjamin May; 3.

Jonathan, married Sally Tyler; 4. Kate married Samuel Johnson; 5. Elizabeth died unmarried; 6. Rebecca married Nathaniel Cocknell; 7. Susan married William Head; 8. Sophy, married Christopher Thompson; 9. Dorean married (1st) James Runnell and (2) Hartwell Macon; 10. Narcissa married James Ragsdale; 11. Mordecai married Susan Alston; 12. Anne married Mr. McLelland, of Charleston, South Carolina.

The will of Thomas[5] Harrison (William[4]), planter of old Granville County, and deacon of the church at Euhaw, mentions his children, Henry, William, Thomas, John, Mikell and Francis. It was his son, William, who married Miss Gignilliat, and went, with many others, from Beaufort District, South Carolina, to Darien, Georgia, soon after the close of the Revolution. That the colonist ancestor, Burr Harrison, was a man of means, is shown by the large acreage taken up in his name, and that he was of gentle birth, the arms of Harrison he brought with him to this country is guarantee. From generation to generation his descendants have married with the best. They are now scattered throughout the Union, and we find them, as in the past, filling honorable positions, civil and military.

Bishop Meade, in his noble book, "Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia," describing life in the Old Dominion, says: "There were galleries in the church at Broad Run, one of which was allowed to be put up by Mr. Thomas Harrison, provided it was done so as not to incommode any of the pews below it. The others were put up by the vestry and sold. The pews below were all common, though doubtless taken possession of by different families, as is usual in England. The old English custom (beginning

with the Royal family in St. George's Church at Windsor) of appropriating the galleries to the rich and noble was soon followed in Virginia, and the old aristocratic families could with difficulty be brought down from their high lofts in the old churches, even after they became uncomfortable and almost dangerous."[11]

Bishop Meade further says: "We enter now on that most interesting portion of Virginia called the Northern Neck, which, beginning on the Chesapeake Bay, lies between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers, and crossing the Blue Ridge, or passing through it, with the Potomac, at Harper's Ferry, extends with that river to the heads thereof in the Alleghany Mountains, and thence by a straight line crosses the North Mountain and Blue Ridge, at the head-waters of the Rappahannock. By common consent this is admitted to be the most fertile part of Virginia, and to abound in many advantages, whether we consider the rich supply of fish and oysters in the rivers and creeks of the tide-water portion of it and the rapid growth of its forests and improvable character of its soil, or the fertility of the lands of the valley, so much of which is evidently alluvial.

"There were settlements at any early period on the rich banks of the Potomac and Rappahannock by families of note, who took possession of those seats which originally belonged to warlike tribes of Indians, which latter were forced to give way to the superior prowess of the former."[12] Among the notable families of Northern Virginia were those of Carter, Cary, Culpepper, Custis, Fairfax, Harrison, Lee, Tayloe and Washington.

There comes to our mind the gentle admonition of Bishop Meade: "Show your estimate of a respectable ancestry by

faithfully copying their excellencies. 'Say not that you have Abraham for your father,' said our Lord, 'for God is able to raise up children unto Abraham, out of the stones of the earth.' He bids them to do the works of Abraham in order to receive his favour. Your ancestry may, and will be, only a shame to you, except you copy what is worthy of imitation in their character and conduct."

THE HARRISON DESCENDANTS

Thomas[1] Harrison = Mary ——

William[2] Harrison = —— Gignilliat

Horace Jesse[3] Harrison = Mary Martha Pelot

Eliza Chisholm Pelot[4] Harrison = Daniel Vaughan

Sarah Gignilliat[4] Harrison = (1) Isaac Snow
(2) Major Blue
(3) Col. A. A. Gaulding

Caroline[4] Harrison

Mary Amanda[4] Harrison = Henry Young

Horace Nephew[4] Harrison = Rebecca Somerville

Susan Marion[4] Harrison = Tudor Tucker Hall

Samuel[4] Harrison (twin to Jane)

Jane Evylyn[4] Harrison = Rev. Dr. Dodd

Benjamin[4] Harrison

Thomas[1] Harrison = Mary ——

William[2] Harrison = —— Gignilliat

Horace Jesse[3] Harrison = Mary Martha Pelot

Eliza Chisholm Pelot[4] Harrison = Daniel Vaughan

John James[5] Vaughan = Mary Lavisy Beville

Agnes Beville[6] Vaughan = Arthur White Tedcastle

Thomas[1] Harrison = Mary ——

William[2] Harrison = —— Gignilliat

Horace Jesse[3] Harrison = Mary Martha Pelot

Sarah Gignilliat[4] Harrison = Isaac Snow

Mary Alice[5] Snow = —— Hickman

Leila Alice[6] Hickman = —— Kennerly

Eva Harrison[6] Hickman = —— Collins

Thomas[1] Harrison = Mary ——

William[2] Harrison = —— Gignilliat

Horace Jesse[3] Harrison = Mary Martha Pelot

Sarah Gignilliat[4] Harrison = Isaac Snow

Janie Harrison[5] Snow = John Campbell McMillan

Lula[6] McMillan (Mrs. J. S. Holliday)

Jesse Ora[6] McMillan (deceased)

Harry C.[6] McMillan (deceased)

William Vernon[6] McMillan

John C.[6] McMillan

Lillian May[6] McMillan (deceased)

Archie Harrison[6] McMillan (deceased)

Jennie Alice[6] McMillan

Nannie[6] McMillan (Mrs. F. Woodrow Coleman)

Robert K.[6] McMillan

Bessie[6] McMillan (Mrs. J. A. Krouse)

THE PELOT FAMILY

"People who take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants."

Macaulay.

"I see that sensible men and conscientious men all over the world were of one religion."

Emerson.

CHAPTER V

THE PELOT FAMILY

THE Pelot family of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, which Dr. J. G. B. Bulloch of Washington, D. C., in the *Transactions of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina* classes as among the families which made that state illustrious, was founded in America by the Rev. Francis Pelot, A. M.,[13] who was born at Norville, Stuttgart, Switzerland, 11 March, 1720. His ancestors were people of political and financial consequence in Switzerland, and "he derived from them," as the Rev. Oliver Hart, the distinguished Baptist clergyman of Charleston says,[14] "the right of Burghership in his native town."

The year of his coming to America is said to have been 1734, and the Rev. Morgan Edwards, the founder of Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, says that in 1772, he was the owner of three islands and 3,785 acres of land on the mainland of South Carolina, besides a large number of slaves, and "stock in abundance." Although bred a Presbyterian, in 1744 he adopted the Baptist faith, and two years later, a plantation owner and a layman, he assumed the ministry of the Euhaw Church, on Indian Land. This church, which had had its beginning in 1683, had remained a dependency of the First Baptist Church of Charleston for sixty years, but had now been constituted a separate church.

By 1752, Mr. Pelot had determined to enter the ministry as an ordained preacher, and on the thirteenth of January of that year he was ordained at Euhaw, and became the settled pastor of the church. In this capacity he remained, a notable figure in that part of South Carolina, and one of the most influential persons in the councils of the Baptist denomination, until his death in 1774. In the manuscript diary of the Rev. Oliver Hart, of Charleston, we find the following: "On Saturday, January 11, 1752, Mr. Stephens and Oliver Hart ordained Mr. Thomas Harrison to the office of deacon. January 13th we ordained Mr. Francis Pelot minister, Mr. Benjamin Parmenter ruling elder, and Archibald Harting deacon, all in ye church at Euhaw."

The *American Church History Series* (Vol. 2, on the Baptists, by Newman) says: "In February, 1752, Francis Pelot became pastor of the Euhaw Church, which he long served with ability and devotion. Born in Switzerland (1720) and brought up in the Reformed Church, he became a Baptist about 1744, ten years after his arrival in South Carolina. He was a man of means, being possessed of 'three islands and about 3,785 acres on the continent, with slaves and stock in abundance.' This notice furnished by Morgan Edwards is worthy of being quoted on account of the rarity of such phenomena up to this time. He was the first in a long line of wealthy Baptist ministers, who administered their large estates in the fear of God and proved a blessing to the cause. From this time forward he stood shoulder to shoulder with Hart in his aggressive efforts in behalf of education and evangelization. The churches of the Charleston Association were from the beginning among the most liberal supporters of Rhode Island College. . . . The needs of the

college were considered and Gano, Hart, and Pelot were requested to address Baptist Associations throughout America in favor of a plan of contribution for its support."

"In 1767," says Benedict's *History of the Baptists*, quoting from an older authority, Wood Furman's *History of the Charleston Association*, "the [Charleston] Association having previously called the serious attention of the churches to the subject, formally adopted the Confession of Faith published by the London Assembly of 1689. . . . Messrs. Hart and Pelot were appointed to draw up a system of discipline agreeable to Scripture to be used by the churches. This they brought forward in 1772, and Rev. Morgan Edwards and Mr. David Williams were requested to assist the compilers in revising it. In 1773, it was examined by the Association and was adopted." Benedict also says: "Mr. Pelot was a very distinguished man in his day amongst the South Carolina Baptists. He possessed an ample fortune and a valuable library, and devoted much of his time to books." Pelot's interest in ministerial education is shown by the recorded fact that he with several others in Charleston raised a fund that educated among others at Rhode Island College two eminent ministers of Massachusetts, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Stillman of Boston, and the Rev. Dr. Hezekiah Smith of Haverhill. At the ordination of both these ministers Mr. Pelot preached the sermon. Quoting from the manuscript diary (kept from 1740–1780) of the Revd. Oliver Hart, who was for more than thirty years pastor of the First Baptist Church in Charleston, South Carolina—"On Friday November ye 12, 1774, died my dear Friend and Brother the Revd Francis Pelot. A greater loss the Baptist Interest could not have sustained by the death of any one in the Province. His

family, his Church, and the Neighbourhood, will feel a sensible and irreparable loss. And as to my own Part, I have lost the best Friend and counselor I ever was blest with in the world; the most intimate friendship had subsisted betwixt us for about four and twenty years. In all which Time I ever found him a faithful Friend, and qualified to give advice in the most critical cases. This worthy man was born March 11th, 1720, of a reputable family, in the town called Neuvavill, in Switzerland (to which town he had an ancient right of Burgership) and came over to America (with his Father, Mother, Sister and Brother) Oct. 28, 1734. They settled in Purysburg, South Carolina, where his mother died about two years after their Arrival, and his Father died May 24, 1754. His brother set off from Purysburg, for the Ewhaw, on Saturday Jany: 6th; 1749-50, but being overtaken with excessive bad weather lost his way, and (tho' sought for) was not heard of, for many months; when his Bones, and horses bones, with some Rags of Clothes and Things he had with him were found, back of a place called Oakatees. The Loss of his only Brother in such a manner must have been a great affliction, to him, as well as their Father, Sister and other friends.

"By his industry, Mr. Pelot had procured a fine interest: which he left free from incumbrance, between his Widow and Children, in the most equitable manner.

"To delineate a finished picture of this Worthy man's Character would require much nicer touches than my pencil is capable of, therefore I shall not attempt it.

"I have already observed that he was blest with good natural Parts, and a pretty good Education, whereby a Foundation was laid for the great Improvements he made, by

Reading Study and Conversation. He had much Vivacity of Temper, a great Flow of Spirits; which being regulated by a principle of Grace, rendered him a facetious and agreeable Companion. His conversation was not only pleasing but profitable; as he had a fine Turn for introducing Religion, and spiritualizing most Occurrences in Life. The French was his native language which he pronounced accurately and spake fluently, as long as he lived. As to his Preaching, he did not content with delivering a little dry Morality, but unfolded and applied the great and glorious Doctrines of the Gospel. His Principles were truly evangelical, and his knowledge of Truth was extensive, clear and judicious. He knew how rightly to divide the Word of Truth, and to give the Saint and Sinner their proper Portion. He would search the Hypocrite, and wrest his false props out of his hands. In the choice of his subjects, he often seem'd to give his Fancy Scope; for he would frequently go upon Texts, which his Hearers could hardly devise how he could manage them to Advantage; but when he had smote the Rock, the Waters would gush out. Upon the whole, he was a Workman who needed not to be ashamed, for he rightly divided the word of Truth.

"In his family he was a bright Example of true Piety. The morning and evening Sacrifices of Prayer and Praise were constantly offered up to the God of our Lives and mercies. He not only endeavored to train up his Children in the Paths of Virtue and Religion. But he also took much Pains with his Servants, to teach them the fear of God, and the Way to Eternal Happiness. I wish I could say that in these things his success had been equal to his Endeavours.

"He was a good Casuist; knew how to solve doubts, and clear up difficult Cases of Conscience, and to say no more; He was the sincere, open, constant and hearty Friend; could keep a secret, and, in short, few Men were ever better qualified for Friendship than He."

WILL OF FRANCIS PELOT

SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. I, FRANCIS PELOT of St. Helena Parish, Granville County in the Province aforesaid Clerk, being sensible of the frailty of Human Nature, do, while through the goodness of God, I am in health, and have the full exercise of my understanding and memory, make and Constitute this my last Will and Testament requiring it may be received by all as such. IMPRIMIS. I do most humbly bequeath my soul to God thro' the all sufficient Righteousness of my Exalted and most precious Redeemer Jesus Christ, who only Can present me to the heavenly Father without spot or blemish, and am daily endeavoring that when my body is Called to the Grave, it may be in the Comfortable Hope and full assurance of the Resurrection unto eternal life.

ITEM. I do require that my Funeral Charges (which must be very moderate) and all my lawful debts be faithfully paid by my Executors hereinafter mentioned. ITEM. I give unto the Church of Christ, Baptized on a personal Profession of faith by Immersion holding the doctrines of Election, effectual Calling, Perseverance of the Saints in Grace &c. One acre of Land for a place of Public Worship, where the Ewhaw Baptist Meeting house now stands the Eastern line to run along the high Road, and the northern line to run three feet below the spot where the Vestry house now stands, and so to Close one Square Acre; which with the buildings now thereon or any that may be raised thereon

for Public Worship, School keeping, or Sheds to put Horses under during the time of Worship, or buildings for a Minister and his successors of the Baptist denomination, holding the doctrines aforesaid, and no other purposes shall belong to said Church for ever; with this Proviso, nevertheless that if any Part of the said Acre of Land be with the knowledge or allowance of the said Church made use of for a burying place, which would spoil the useful spring of water below it, the said acre of Land shall be forfeited to him or her of my Heirs, who shall own or have sold the Land adjoining it; but even then the said Church shall have liberty, within Twelve months time to take away all the buildings that may be thereon at the time of the said forfeiture. Whereas Joseph Sealy of the above named parish and County deceased, did, in his Last Will & testament bearing date on or about the 29th day of August 1760, give and bequeath the sum of one Thousand pounds Current money of this Province to the above mentioned antipedo baptist Church at Ewhaw, of which I was and still am the Pastor, the Interest of which sum is to be Yearly paid by the Trustees to the Minister of the said Congregation; and I, as Executor of the said Will and Testament, having the said sum of One Thousand pounds in my hands it is my Will that my Executors, as soon as a proper trust in behalf of the said Church Can be obtained, the old one being extinct, do pay the said sum of one thousand pounds Currency to the Trustees who shall be legally nominated; but then I as Executor of the said Will and Testament, and for the security of my own Estate, require that the said Trustees on receiving the said sum of One thousand pounds Currency, do give my Executors hereafter named, a Security Bond both for the application of the said money according to the directions of the said Joseph Sealy by his Will, and also to return the said money to my Executors, if it should be Legally Claimed of my Estate by any Person or Persons. ITEM, I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Catherine Pelot all the negroes she was

possessed of before our marriage which shall be found in my possession at my Death, with all their Increase since, and everything else I had by her at our marriage excepting, however the labour which I have had of the said Negroes with what is worn out, lost or sold. I also give her the Choice of one of the other Beds, her Choice of two of my Riding Horses, ten Cows and Calf, Six Ews and one Ram, three breeding sows. I give her Doct^{r}. John Gill on the Canticles, a large Quarto, her Choice of twelve Octaves, twelve duodecimos and twenty Pamphlets out of my Study. I also give to my said wife my negroe Woman named Rose with her Children Called Cuffee and Nancy, I also give her Young Nelly now Pompey's wife, and the Girl Amy, with all the said Rose, Nelly & Amy's future Increase, during my said Wife's life time, and at her death to be the Property of my Younger sons, Charles and Benjamin Pelot to be equally divided them or the Heirs of their Bodies but should either of them die without such Heirs before the decease of my said wife, then the Survivor of my said sons Charles or Benjamin to have all said Negroe Women with their increase; but if both should die Childless before their Mother's death, then the said Negroes to be divided between my wife who is to have one third of them to her Heirs forever, and the other two thirds to be divided between my three other sons John, James and Samuel Pelot, or the Heirs of their bodies and to none else. I also give to my said wife the full and free use of three hundred Acres of Land whereon I now live, that is a line parallel to the Eastern line of my six hundred Tract, is to be run across the middle of the Tract so as to inclose three hundred acres, the lower part whereon the Buildings now Stand, shall be for my Wife's use, during her Natural life and no longer, of which land she may Clear & Cultivate as she shall see proper, and have the intire use of the Houses thereon and other improvements, during her life. The above Legacies are given to my said Wife in lieu of all Dowers or other demands. Should my wife want Timber

for building, or other plantation uses fencing excepted, she may freely have it taken off my four hundred Acres Tract I lately bought of William Blake Esq[r]. If the above three hundred acres of Land should prove insufficient for my said Wife's Culture, she may during her Widowhood and no longer, Clear and Cultivate one hundred and fifty Acres of my Tract of seven hundred Acres and the five hundred acres lately granted to me the latter adjoining the former; but I recommend it to her not to let the land be abused, and that there may be no dispute about the said Hundred and fifty acres between my wife and sons, if they Can not so well agree about the spot, let two Disinterested arbitrators be Chosen by the parties, and let them measure it off so that if possible, there may be a proportionable quantity of good with bad land, and they may as little as possible interfere with each other and their arbitration shall be decisive. Item I give and bequeath unto my three sons John, James and Samuel Pelot, all my lands, except those above and hereafter mentioned, to be equally divided between them, and John Pelot to have his first Choice of the said divisions, James Pelot his next Choice, and Samuel Pelot the last Choice to them and the Heirs of their bodies for ever and to no other. Item. I give and bequeath unto my sons Charles and Benjamin Pelot the Tract on which I now live Containing six hundred acres attended with the Incumbrance mentioned above in favour of their Mother. The Ewhaw Tract Containing three hundred acres, my three Islands and the four hundred acre Tract I lately bought of William Blake Esq[r]. this also attended with the Incumbrance, as above in favour of their Mother, to be equally divided, not Consider the quantity more than the quality as I order it shall be the Case with regard to the lands to be divided amongst my three sons, John, James & Samuel Pelot to be my said sons Charles & Benjamin Pelot and their lawful begotten heirs for ever. But should either of them die in Minority, and leaving no lawful Heirs of their Bodies, the whole is to be

the Property of the survivor. If both should die in Minority without lawful issue, then the said lands shall be divided amongst my sons John, James and Samuel Pelot, or their Issue according to the Rule above prescribed, except the three hundred Acres above given for my Wife's use, which shall then be her property to dispose of at her Pleasure, with this further exception, nevertheless, that is my said wife Catherine should be with Child at my death, that Child shall be possessed of the said Lands as its own property, and not to be divided amongst my sons John, James and Samuel Pelot as above mentioned, or should only Charles Pelot or Benjamin Pelot die without lawful Issue, the Child my said Wife Conceived before my death shall have the part of the deceased, and so share with the survivor of the two; but if that Child dies without lawful Issue, then the division is to be made as above directed. ITEM, should my said wife be with Child at my decease that Child shall have an equal share of my Personal Estate with my other Children, if a Girl, to be delivered to her at the age of eighteen Years; but if a boy at the age of twenty one Years. If that Child's income is not sufficient to give it a convenient Education and maintainance, some allowance is to be given out of my Estate towards it, so far as it may appear necessary; but I allow nothing for Gaudiness or superfluities. ITEM, I give and bequeath unto my five sons, John, James, Samuel, Charles and Benjamin Pelot and their heirs each an equal share of my Personal Estate that shall be found remaining, But let it be observed that what Negroes soever I have put or may put into the hands of any of my Children, that these Negroes shall be appraised, and Counted as part of my Estate, but after they are appraised, they shall become part of the shares of those of my Children, who had them in Possession before, and no other. ITEM, I give and bequeath unto my son in law John Grimball Jun^{r}. a Negroe Boy named Dembo, who he now has in his Possession. Should any Disputes arise amongst any of my Heirs above men-

tioned about any part of the whole of my Estate, my Will is that it shall be referred to the Arbitration of three, or even to Twelve disinterested freeholders to be Chosen by the Contending Parties, each an equal number, whose Arbitration shall be valid, and not Contested by the Arbitrators, after due warning given to the refusing party, then the other shall Choose Arbitrators, and their Arbitration shall be Valid, and he, she or they of my said Heirs that will not stand to the Arbitration; but go to Law, I do hereby declare that by the said act of going, He, She or they that enter a Suit first & by any dispute, except the majority of the Arbitrators give it under their hands that they look upon it as absolutely necessary: not but any of them may take the advice of a Lawyer; but not except as above, to enter suits or arresting one another about my Estate. Finaly. I do hereby appoint, ordain & Constitute my beloved Wife Catherine Pelot, my beloved son John Pelot, my beloved friends Thomas Rivers Jun^{r}. & David Williams both of Charlestown Executrix and Executors of this my last Will and testament, whom I do hereby impower to buy, sell, and act in behalf of my Estate, as they (Consistant with the above directions) shall Judge most beneficial for my Estate, and are also hereby impowered to sell the Shares of my Estate Coming to my Minor Children, and so to put the monies at Interest with good securities: or if they shall think it will be best to keep the said shares together, they may Clear & Cultivate their Lands for their Negroes to work either together or apart, as they shall think best, only I would have no waste made of the lands.

I do hereby revoke and disannul all other Wills, testaments, Donations and Legacies by me made before the date of these presents.

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this 13th day of June In the Year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and seventy-three.

(Signed) FRA^{s}. PELOT (L.S.)

Sealed, signed and declared by Fra^{s}. Pelot to be his last Will & Testament, Contained in this and the two foregoing Pages, in the presence of us. Note the word Quallity interlined between the 33d and 34th Lines of the second page, before signing. There [is] an Erasement of four words in the 8th line of said Page.

(Signed) John Parmenter Jun.
" Charles Bealer
" Thomas Dawson

Be it remembered that Francis Pelot the Testator has declared to us, this to be his last Will and testament, and that we the subscribers, each saw him with his own hand blot out two words in the 24th line of this Page, as Witness our hands.

Oct. 30th, 1774

(Signed) Richard Grey
" Joseph Massey
" Robert Bramston

State of South Carolina, } IN THE PROBATE COURT.
CHARLESTON COUNTY. }

I, GEORGE D. BRYAN, Judge of the Probate Court of Charleston County, and State of South Carolina, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the last Will and Testament of Francis Pelot late of said County and State, deceased, admitted to Probate on the —— day of —— and of record in said Court, in Will Book dated 1774–1778,

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature as Judge of said Court, with the seal of said Court affixed, this 13th day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventeen.

[SEAL]

G. D. BRYAN,
Judge of the Probate Court of
Charleston County, South Carolina.

The Rev. Francis Pelot married, first, Martha Sealy, a descendant of Joseph Sealy, Esq., an English settler with Lord Cardross in 1683, whose first plantation was on Edisto Island, South Carolina, but who about forty years later removed to Euhaw. Martha was a daughter of John Sealy and his wife, Hannah. He married, secondly, Catharine, widow of William Screven (son of the Rev. William Screven), and daughter of Justinius Stoll. His children were, by his first wife: John; Francis, who died young; James, who married Elizabeth Chisholm, and died in 1824; Samuel, who died unmarried; and other sons who died young. By his second wife he had Charles, who married Susanna Postell; Benjamin; and a daughter, Sarah Catharine, born soon after her father's death, who was married, first, to James Gignilliat, second, to James Nephew. Of these sons, James, Samuel, and Charles served with distinction in the Revolution. Samuel was taken prisoner by a Dutch captain and escaped on the captain's own horse. He died a bachelor. Charles entered the war as a private and for acts of valor was promoted major. They all joined the army in South Carolina. These brothers and their descendants intermarried with the Chisholms (Chisolms), Coopers, De Saussures (Saussys), Gignilliats, Guerins, Harrisons, Kings, MacDonnells, Maxwells, Nephews, Perrins, Porchers, Postells, Rogerses, and Vaughans.

James Pelot, second son of the Rev. Francis Pelot and his first wife, Martha Sealy, was born on his father's plantation on Euhaw river. When the Revolution came he took a servant with him and went to the war. He was taken prisoner at Purysburg and was held until after the war closed, when he was released. In the United States Census

taken in 1790 we find him still in South Carolina, with his wife, two sons over sixteen and two under, two daughters, and thirteen slaves. His brother, Major Charles, also appears in this census, with his wife, one son under sixteen, one daughter, and seventy-one slaves. As early as 1797, James Pelot and his son John Francis are found on Amelia Island, Florida, where James had very large grants from the Spanish Government. His plantation, like those of John D. Vaughan and the Harrisons, was one of the most notable plantations in the South, the principal crop it yielded being Sea Island cotton, from which its owner derived a princely income. Amelia Island had been named by the Spaniards, Santa Maria, but General Oglethorpe named it Amelia in honour of the Princess Amelia, daughter of George the Third. Oglethorpe describes it as "a beautiful Island, and the Seashore covered with Myrtle, Peach-Trees, Orange-Trees, and Vines in the Wild Woods." The vines he speaks of were undoubtedly the fragrant yellow jasmine, which abounds in the Florida woods.

In the year 1800, James Pelot lost all his negroes by their escaping on board a British war-ship, and in 1812 he lost "all his property and negroes by Soldiers of the United States." In 1836 his family was reimbursed in part for this latter loss which was known in the family as the "Spanish claim," by the payment of twenty-five thousand dollars.

James Pelot married about 1773 or '74 Elizabeth Chisholm, daughter of John Chisholm and his wife. He died in 1824, and his wife died in 1796. Both are buried in the family burying-ground on their plantation. Their children numbered six: John Francis, planter on Amelia Island, who died a bachelor; Major James, who married Susan Marion

Cooper, a collateral descendant of Anthony Ashley Cooper, one of the lords proprietors; Mary Martha, who was married to Colonel Horace Jesse Harrison, of the distinguished family of that name of Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia; Sarah Bulia, who was born in October, 1788, and was married on Amelia Island to Fernando Donald MacDonnell (born November, 1770, died November, 1849), and died in October, 1867; Joseph Sealy, born about 1790, married Jane E. Maxwell, and died 16 October, 1833; and Samuel G., married in Liverpool, England, —— Rathbone. The eldest child of Sarah Bulia (Pelot) and her husband Fernando Donald MacDonnell, was Alexander Harrison MacDonnell, born 5 September, 1809, married Ann E. Nowlan, born 5 December, 1808, and had George N. MacDonnell, who married Margaret R. Walker, and their second child was Judge Alexander Harrison MacDonnell, Jr., now of Savannah, born 28 March, 1859, married Lillian B. Russell, and has had three children: Alexander Harrison MacDonnell, 3rd; Henry Russell MacDonnell; and Alan MacDonnell. Joseph Sealy Pelot was a notable lawyer in Savannah and an officer and pew-holder in the historic Christ Church in that city.

Mary Martha Pelot, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Chisholm) Pelot, was born in South Carolina about 1786, and was married about 1803 to Horace Jesse Harrison, of Darien, McIntosh County, Georgia, whose plantation seven miles from Darien was known as "The Meadows." The great house on this plantation was destroyed in the terrible hurricane of 1824.

THE PELOT DESCENDANTS

Jean (or Jonas)[1] Pelot = ——

Rev. Francis[2] Pelot = (1) Martha Sealy

(2) Catharine (Stoll) Screven

James[3] Pelot = Elizabeth Chisholm

Mary Martha[4] Pelot = Horace Jesse Harrison

Eliza Chisholm Pelot[5] Harrison = Daniel Vaughan

John James[6] Vaughan = Mary Lavisy Beville

Agnes Beville[7] Vaughan = Arthur White Tedcastle

Jean (or Jonas)[1] Pelot = ——

Rev. Francis[2] Pelot = (1) Martha Sealy

(2) Catharine (Stoll) Screven

James[3] Pelot = Elizabeth Chisholm

Mary Martha[4] Pelot = Horace Jesse Harrison

Eliza Chisholm Pelot[5] Harrison = Daniel Vaughan

Jane[6] Vaughan = Thaddeus A. MacDonnell

Braxton Bragg[7] MacDonnell

Donald[7] MacDonnell

Sydney Johnstone[7] MacDonnell

Jean (or Jonas)[1] Pelot = ——

Rev. Francis[2] Pelot = (1) Martha Sealy

(2) Catharine (Stoll) Screven

James[3] Pelot = Elizabeth Chisholm

Mary Martha[4] Pelot = Horace Jesse Harrison

Eliza Chisholm Pelot[5] Harrison = Daniel Vaughan

Horace Daniel[6] Vaughan = Manuella Noberta

Mary Elizabeth[7] Vaughan = Warren Scott

Aurilla[8] Scott = Sydney Pons

Sydney Scott[9] Pons

Aubray Canova[9] Pons

John Daniel Horace[9] Pons

Jean (or Jonas)[1] Pelot = ——

Rev. Francis[2] Pelot = (1) Martha Sealy

(2) Catharine (Stoll) Screven

James[3] Pelot = Elizabeth Chisholm

Sarah Bulia[4] Pelot = Fernando Donald MacDonnell

Alexander H.[5] MacDonnell, Sr. = Ann E. Nowlan

G. N.[6] MacDonnell = Margaret R. Walker

Alexander H.[7] MacDonnell, Jr. = Lillian B. Russell

Alexander Harrison[8] MacDonnell, 3d

Henry Russell[8] MacDonnell

Alan[8] MacDonnell

Jean (or Jonas)[1] Pelot = ——

Rev. Francis[2] Pelot = (1) Martha Sealy

(2) Catharine (Stoll) Screven

Charles[3] Pelot = Mary Susanna Postell

Sarah Julia[4] Pelot = Francis Yonge Porcher, M. D.

Francis James[5] Porcher = Louisa Gilman

Francis Yonge[6] Porcher

Wilmot D.[6] Porcher

Louisa G.[6] Porcher

Jean (or Jonas)[1] Pelot = ——

Rev. Francis[2] Pelot = (1) Martha Sealy

(2) Catharine (Stoll) Screven

Sarah Catharine[3] Pelot = (1) James Gignilliat, Jr.

Sarah Catharine Pelot[4] Gignilliat = Edward Postel

Clifford[5] Postel = Gadsden King

Alexander[6] King = ——

Edward Postel[7] King

Mitchell[7] King

Jean (or Jonas)[1] Pelot = ——

Rev. Francis[2] Pelot = (1) Martha Sealy

(2) Catharine (Stoll) Screven

Sarah Catharine[3] Pelot = (1) James Gignilliat, Jr.

Sarah Catharine Pelot[4] Gignilliat = Edward Postel

Susan[5] Postel = Francis Yonge Porcher, M.D. (2d wife)

Jean (or Jonas)[1] Pelot = ——

Rev. Francis[2] Pelot = (1) Martha Sealy

(2) Catharine (Stoll) Screven

James[3] Pelot = Elizabeth Chisholm

John Francis[4] Pelot

James[4] Pelot = Susan Marion Cooper

Mary Martha[4] Pelot = Horace Jesse Harrison

Sarah Bulia[4] Pelot = Fernando Donald MacDonnell

Joseph Sealy[4] Pelot = Jane E. Maxwell

Samuel[4] Pelot = —— Rathbone

Jean (or Jonas)[1] Pelot = ——

Rev. Frances[2] Pelot= (1) Martha Sealy

(2) Catharine (Stoll) Screven

S. C. (Pelot)[3] Gignilliat = (2) James Nephew (2d wife)

Caroline Clifford[4] Nephew = Rev. Joseph C. Stiles, D. D.

Catharine Ann[5] Stiles = Prof. H. Newton

Josephine Clifford[5] Stiles = ——

Robert Augustus[5] Stiles = Leila Caperton

Randolph[5] Stiles = ——

Mary Evelyn[5] Stiles = ——

Eugene West[5] Stiles = (1) Caroline D. Anderson

(2) Rosabel Bowley

Rosa Anderson[5] Stiles = (1) R. H. Christian

(2) Hon. Wm. Gaston Caperton

THE PEARCE FAMILY

"Glooms of the live-oaks, beautiful-braided and woven
With intricate shades of the vines that myriad-cloven
Clamber the forks of the multiform boughs,
Emerald twilights,—
Virginal sky lights,
Wrought of the leaves to allure the whisper of vows,
When lovers pace timidly down through the green colonades
Of the dim sweet woods and glades,
Of the heavenly woods and glades,
That run to the radiant marginal sand beach within
The wide, wide sea-marshes of Glynn."

Sidney Lanier.

CHAPTER VI

THE PEARCE FAMILY

THE Pearce family from which we are descended was one of the early families of Virginia, its early representative there being William Pearce or Pierce, of James City County, born in England, died in Virginia, a member of the Virginia Council in 1631. One of his kinsmen, Stephen Pearce, Sr., emigrated to Carolina early in the eighteenth century, and there had sons born, Stephen, William, and Joshua. In July, 1768, Joshua appears in Georgia as making application for a hundred and fifty acres of land on both sides of Buck Creek, he deposing that he had then been in the province four months from North Carolina, had had no lands granted him previously in Georgia, and had a wife and six children and negroes. He received this grant in July, 1771. Joshua was a leader in Methodism in the State of Georgia. He was a man of great intelligence and energy, a planter of importance, and deeply interested in every movement for the welfare of his state. His memory still endures, he is spoken of in the several counties of Effingham, Screven, Bullock and Burke, with veneration and respect. This was the Joshua Pearce who entertained President Washington on his visit to the South in 1791.[15] Either Joshua's mother or his grandmother was a Lanier (the other being a Green), and he was in this way a collateral ancestor of the eminent Georgia poet, Sidney Lanier.

Joshua's son Stephen married Mary Mills of the noted family of that name of South Carolina, and later of Georgia and Florida. His own position in Georgia was precisely similar to that of his father, and his ideals and activities were theoretically and practically the same. As we have said in our chapter of reminiscences, it was he who entertained, in 1825, in the same house and the same room in which Washington was entertained by his father, the great General Lafayette. Though he was interested largely in Florida lands, through the family of his wife, he never lived in that state. His grandsons, however, did; one of them, Stephen Pearce Bevill, being among the earliest settlers of Alachua County.

Stephen's older brother, Joshua, emigrated to Mississippi, and receiving grants in that state, founded the Mississippi branch of this Pearce family.

Major William Pearce, uncle of Stephen, was a member of the Continental Congress from Georgia. He was born in North Carolina about 1740, received a liberal education, and was one of the early exponents of the cause of the colonies. *The Cyclopoedia of Georgia*, edited by ex-Governor Allen D. Candler and General Clement A. Evans, says of him: "His first service was as aid-de-camp to General Greene. At the battle of Eutaw Springs he distinguished himself by his bravery, for which he was given a sword by Congress, and was promoted to the rank of Major." In the year 1786–87 he served as a delegate to the Continental Congress, in the latter year being also a member of the Philadelphia Convention to revise the Federal Constitution. He married 13 December, 1783, at John's Island, Georgia, Charlotte Fenwick, daughter of Edward Fenwick, deceased, and a ward of General Nathaniel Greene.

THE PEARCE DESCENDANTS

Stephen[1] Pearce, Sr. = —— Green (or Lanier)

Joshua[2] Pearce = Hannah Lanier (or Green)

Stephen[3] Pearce = Mary Mills

Mary[4] Pearce = Paul Bevill, Jr.

Stephen Pearce[5] Bevill = Lavina Lipsey

Mary Lavisy[6] Beville = John James Vaughan

Agnes Beville[7] Vaughan = Arthur White Tedcastle

THE CHISHOLM FAMILY

" Oh, Brignall banks are wild and fair
And Greta woods are green,
Now you may gather garlands there
Would grace a summer's queen.

" Ah, County Guy, the hour is nigh,
The sun has left the lea.
The orange flower perfumes the bower,
The breeze is on the sea."

Scott.

CHAPTER VII

THE CHISHOLM FAMILY

THE *Chisolm Genealogy*, by William Garnett Chisolm, LL. B., published in New York in 1914 says : "Alexander Chisolm and his wife, daughter of Fraser of Ballindown, emigrated to Carolina about 1717 and settled near Charles Town on the Wando or Cooper river. The rising in 1715 under the Earl of Mar had been repulsed, and Roderick Chisholm, chief of the Clan, had been forfeited by the King for his participation therein, and no doubt a home in the new world offered more inducements to a free spirit than the unsettled condition of affairs in the Highlands." After Culloden, in 1746, the Clan was almost broken up, much the larger portion taking refuge in Canada. These seem to have been nearly all Roman Catholic, the Protestants of the Knockfin branch coming to Georgia and Virginia, where they are to-day. There appear to have been several Chisholms, who emigrated to Carolina, the exact relationship between whom the present status of the family researches does not disclose. These branches are now represented by Dr. Julian F. Chisholm of Savannah, Mr. Edward de C. Chisholm of New York, Mr. Frederick A. Chisholm of Birmingham, Alabama, Mrs. J. W. Masters of Fredricksburg, Virginia, and Senator Robert L. Owen of Oklahoma. Senator Owen's mother was Narcissa Chisholm,

hereditary head of the Cherokee Indians, her father, Thomas Chisholm, having married a Cherokee princess before the tribe were sent West by the Government. He was the son of John Chisholm, a Scotchman, who lived near Charleston about Revolutionary times. This John Chisholm witnessed the will of William Maine (who married Judith Gignilliat), in old Granville County, now Beaufort, South Carolina, on the 6th of March, 1769. His daughter, Elizabeth Chisholm, married James Pelot, and was the great great-grandmother of the writer.

The Chisholms of Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia "are descended from the cadet house of Knockfin, a branch of the Clan Chisholm, which has been established in Inverness-shire and neighboring counties for nearly six hundred years, being one of the smaller but independent members of that great system peculiar to the Scottish Gael."[16] "The Chisholm," says Dr. Joseph G. Bulloch, in his *History and Genealogy of the Family of Baillie and Dunain*, "a family twice descended from Royalty, and through the de l'Ards from the earls of Strathern and Orkney and Kings of Norway," also descend from the McKenzies of Gairloch, Tarbat, Red Castle, Applecross, and the Earl of Seaforth, the McIntoshes, McDonalds of Moidart and Glengarry, McLeans, Frasers, and others. Dr. Bulloch also adds: "The ancient family of Chisholm (The Chisholm) descends from the Earl of Athole, the last representative of Donald Bane, King of Scotland, and this family is one of the early Celtic families of old Scotland."[17]

In the *Chisolm Genealogy* we further read: "*Wiland de Chisholm* was said to have been a man of remarkable strength and an expert with the bow. He was the first of

the name to be designated The Chisholm, it being the proud boast of the family in former days that there were only three persons entitled to this prefix — The Pope, The King, and The Chisholm. Modern authorities state that in spite of the use of this title by other Highland chieftains, notably The Mackintosh, the head of the Clan Chisholm is the only one who by right is entitled to be so designated." "The principal seat of the family is Erchless Castle, a stately and picturesque old fortalice, situated near the confluence of the Glass and Farrar, in a region unsurpassed for its combination of sylvan beauty and mountain grandeur — about ten miles from the town of Beauly, where, in the midst of a group of old trees, stands the ancient Priory, roofless and neglected — the burial place of the Lords of Lovat and Knights of the families of Chisholm and MacKenzie."[18]

THE CHISHOLM DESCENDANTS

John[1] Chisholm = ——

Elizabeth[2] Chisholm = James Pelot

Mary Martha[3] Pelot = Horace Jesse Harrison

Eliza Chisholm Pelot[4] Harrison = Daniel Vaughan

John James[5] Vaughan = Mary Lavisy Beville

Agnes Beville[6] Vaughan = Arthur White Tedcastle

THE ATHERTON FAMILY

" Thy soul was like a star, and dwelt apart ;
So dids't thou travel on life's common way
In cheerful godliness."

Wordsworth.

" Liberty's in every blow !
Let us do or die."

Burns.

CHAPTER VIII

THE ATHERTON FAMILY

HUMPHREY ATHERTON, Major-General, was born at Preston, Lancashire, England, where he married Mary Wales. With his wife and three children, embarking at Bristol, he came to Boston, Massachusetts, in the "James" in 1635. Settling in Dorchester, he was admitted a freeman there and signed the covenant of the church in May, 1638. Becoming captain of the Dorchester train-band at its organization in 1644, he was promoted five years later to the command of the Suffolk Regiment. This position he held until 1661, when he succeeded Daniel Denison as Major-General of the Suffolk troop. In civil as well as military affairs Major-General Atherton was very prominent. For thirteen years, between 1638 and 1660, he was a selectman of Dorchester, for nine years he represented the town in the General Court, in 1653 he was Speaker of the House, and in 1654, and thereafter annually, he was chosen an assistant. In the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, with which he united in 1638, he rose to be captain in 1650.

The public acts of Major-General Atherton, other than strictly military, are enumerated as follows by his biographer in *The History of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company*: "In 1643 he was sent with Edward Tomlins of

Lynn, by the General Court to treat with the Narragansett Indians. In 1644 he returned to the same district with Captains Johnson and Cooke to arrest and try Samuel Gorton for heresy. He seems to have had great skill in his treatment of the Indians, with whom his public duties brought him in frequent contact. He manifested much sympathy for their ignorance and degraded condition, but exercised great energy and decision of character when necessary. Johnson says: 'Although he be slow of speech, yet he is downright for the business — one of a cheer-spirit and entire for the country.' He is also said to have been 'a man of courage and presence of mind, for when he was sent with twenty men to Pessacus, an Indian sachem, to demand the arrears to the colony of three hundred fathom of wampum, Pessacus put him off for some time with dilatory answers, not suffering him to come into his presence. He finally led his men to the door of the wigwam, entered himself, with pistol in hand, leaving his men without, and seizing Pessacus by the hair of his head drew him from the midst of a great number of his attendants, threatening if any of them interfered, he would dispatch them. Pessacus paid what was demanded, and the English returned in safety.'" [19]

Major-General Atherton died 17 September, 1661. He had been in Boston reviewing the train-band and was on his way home to Dorchester across the Neck when his horse stumbled over or was frightened by a cow and threw him off and caused him injuries from which he did not recover. His death seems to have been felt to be a public calamity, and his funeral was conducted with great military pomp.

His estate, besides a farm of seven hundred acres, inventoried eight hundred and thirty-eight pounds. His will was

"Hill Crest"
Home of the Author

proved 27 September, 1661, and his estate was divided among his widow and children. Blake records "He was killed by a fall from his horse at ye South end of Boston as he was coming homewards (I think in ye evening) his horse either running over or starting at a cow that lay down in ye way." His tomb is in the Dorchester Burying Ground, and the epitaph on it is as follows :

"Here lies our Captain and Major of Suffolk withal
A goodly magistrate was he, and Major General,
Two troops of horse with him here came, such love his worth did crave
Ten companies of foot, also mourning, marched to his grave.
Let all who read be sure to keep the truth, as he has done
With Christ he now is crowned, his name was Humphrey Atherton."

Major-General Humphrey Atherton's ninth child was named Mary. She was married 9 (7), 1667 to Joseph Weekes, son of George and Jane (Clap) Weekes. A daughter Mary, of Joseph and Mary (Atherton) Weekes, born 20 May, 1668, was married, probably about 1684, to Joseph Leeds, son of Joseph and Miriam (Cook) Leeds, and a daughter Mary, of Joseph and Mary (Weekes) Leeds, born in 1696, was married 12 November, 1728, to Samuel Humphrey. The three children of Samuel and Mary (Leeds) Humphrey were Mary, born 8 April, 1730, married to Henry Vaughan ; Elizabeth, born 2 May, 1734, died about 1771, unmarried ; and Rachel, born 5 April, 1736, married to John Vaughan.

Samuel Humphrey's will was made 8 September, 1761, and proved 11 July, 1766. The Inventory shows his estate to have been valued at £159. 10. 8.

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In his will he mentions his eldest (living) daughter, Ruth Clapp, wife of David Clapp, his only child then living by his first wife (Elizabeth Baker), his daughter Mary "Vann" wife of Henry "Vann," and his unmarried daughters Elizabeth and Rachel. His homestead he devises to these four daughters in specific parts. 11 November, 1763, Henry Vaughan mortgages twenty acres of land in Dedham to John Whiting. This transaction is recorded in the Registry of Deeds of Suffolk County, Book 100, page 254.

THE ATHERTON DESCENDANTS

Major General[1] Humphrey Atherton = Mary Wales

Mary[2] Atherton = Joseph Weekes

Mary[3] Weekes = Joseph Leeds

Mary[4] Leeds = Samuel Humphrey

Mary[5] Humphrey = Henry Vaughan, Jr.

John[6] Vaughan = Rhoda Effingham

Daniel[7] Vaughan = Eliza C. Pelot Harrison

John James[8] Vaughan = Mary Lavisy Beville

Agnes Beville[9] Vaughan = Arthur White Tedcastle

THE HUMPHREY FAMILY

" Plain living and high thinking are no more,
The homely beauty of the good old cause,
Is gone ; our peace, our fearful innocence,
And pure religion breathing household laws. "

Wordsworth.

CHAPTER IX

THE HUMPHREY FAMILY

THE Humphrey family was founded by Jonas Humphrey, "who came to Dorchester," says Clapp's History of Dorchester, "with his wife Frances, and son James, from Wendover, in Buckinghamshire, England, (where he had been a constable) in 1634. James was about twenty-six years old when the family arrived. Mr. Humphrey was a grantee of Neck Lands in 1637; a member of the Church in 1639; freeman May 13, 1640; and proprietor in the great lots in 1646." His children were: Jonas, died October 30, 1689; James; Hopestill, baptized 4 (4) 1649; Elizabeth; Susan; Sarah; and one other daughter. He lived in what is now called Humphrey Street, and the estate he owned was still in the Humphrey family's possession during most if not all of the nineteenth century. Jonas died "9 (1) 1662" and his wife died "2 (6) 1668". The Humphreys came in the second emigration from England to Dorchester, in 1635, other families coming with them being the Athertons, Claps, Fosters, Leedses, Mathers, Topliffs, Waleses, Weekses, Withingtons, etc.

Elder James Humphrey, second son of Jonas, born in England, was so intimate a friend of his pastor, Richard Mather, that he requested in his will that he should be buried in Mather's tomb. The tomb being stoned up, and

too small, however, his grave was made at the foot of the tomb, and is still marked with the original stone. The inscription thereon is as follows :

"Here lyes Interred ye Body of Mr. James Humphrey, one of ye Ruling Elders of Dorchester, who departed this life May 12th., 1686, in ye 78th. year of his age.

"Inclos'd within this shrine is precious Dust
And only waits for th' rising of ye Just.
Most usefull while he liv'd, adorn'd his Station,
Even to old age he Serv'd his Generation,
Since his Decease tho't of with Veneration.

"How great a Blessing this Ruling Elder he
Unto this Church & Town ; & Pastors Three.
Mather he first did by him help Receive ;
Flint did he next his burden much Relieve ;
Renowned Danforth he did assist with skill
Esteemed high by all : Bear fruit untill
Yielding to death his Glorious seat did fill."

Elder James Humphrey had a wife Mary, whose maiden name we do not know. Their first child was Hopestill, a son, baptized 10 June, 1649, who married first 21 November, 1677, Elizabeth Baker of Dorchester, and had with seven other children a son Samuel, born 27 August, 1691, who had two wives. The second of these wives was Mary Leeds, whom Samuel married 12 November, 1728. To her husband this lady bore three daughters, Mary, born 8 April, 1730, who became the wife of Henry Vaughan, Jr. ; Elizabeth, born 2 May, 1734, died unmarried; and Rachel, born 5 April, 1736, who became the wife of John Vaughan, brother of Henry.[20] Hopestill Humphrey was chosen a Selectman of Dorchester in 1708.

Pillars at "Hill Crest"

THE HUMPHREY DESCENDANTS

Jonas[1] Humphrey = Frances ——

Elder James[2] Humphrey = Mary ——

Hopestill[3] Humphrey = Elizabeth Baker

Samuel[4] Humphrey = Mary Leeds

Mary[5] Humphrey = Henry Vaughan, Jr.

John[6] Vaughan = Rhoda Effingham

Daniel[7] Vaughan = Eliza Chisholm Pelot Harrison

John James[8] Vaughan = Mary Lavisy Beville

Agnes Beville[9] Vaughan = Arthur White Tedcastle

THE GIGNILLIAT FAMILY

"Men who can hear the Decalogue, and feel
No self-reproach."

Wordsworth.

CHAPTER X

THE GIGNILLIAT FAMILY

THE Gignilliat family is one of the notable group of Huguenot families, the founders of which, as Dr. J. G. B. Bulloch of Washington, D. C., says, "either as gentlemen, planters, soldiers, lawyers, statesmen, &c., have added lustre to the Commonwealth of South Carolina."[21] It was evidently founded in America by Jean Francois Gignilliat, who came to America 30 July, 1685, before the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, 22 October, 1685; and who was the son of Abraham Gignilliat and Mary De Ville.

Jean Francois received a grant of three thousand acres as the "first of the Swiss nation to settle in Carolina," and married Susanne Le Serurier, daughter of Jacques Le Serurier and his wife Elizabeth Leger. They had among their children Henry Gignilliat, who married Esther Marion, aunt of General Francis Marion, known as the "Swamp Fox of the American Revolution;" and Abraham Gignilliat, who married, and had John Gignilliat.

John Gignilliat married Mary Magdalen Du Pré, daughter of Cornelius Du Pré and his wife Jean Brabant. Their children were James Gignilliat, born 30 July, 1746, who married Charlotte, daughter of Dr. Pepper and his wife Sarah Evelyn, and had: James Gignilliat, Jr.; Mary Magdalen Gignilliat, who was married to James Nephew; Gilbert Gignilliat, who married Mary MacDonnell; and Henry Gignilliat, who married Jane McIntosh of Mala or Mallow; Elizabeth,

who married John Cooper; Charlotte; John May; Sarah Evelyn; Ann H., and Margaret Pepper.

James Gignilliat, Jr., married Sarah Catharine Pelot, daughter of Rev. Francis Pelot and his second wife, Catharine (Stoll) Pelot, and had three children, viz: Charles Gignilliat; James Gignilliat, 3rd; Sarah Catharine Pelot Gignilliat. The daughter married Edward Postell. They had eight children: Charles, Susanna, Elizabeth, Jane Eliza, Sarah Margaret, Clifford Stiles, Julia Porcher and Laura Edwards. Susanna Postell became the second wife of Dr. Francis Yonge Porcher, her sister, Clifford Stiles Postell, married Gadsden King, Esq., and Laura Postell married Dr. Eli Geddings.

Henry, the eldest son of Jean Francois Gignilliat and his wife Susanne Le Serurier, married Esther Marion, daughter of Benjamin Marion and his wife Judith Baluet, and had, among other children, Judith, who married William Maine; Mary Ann; Gabriel, who was a member of the Provincial Congress in 1775, from South Carolina; and Benjamin. Gabriel had a son, Gabriel, who married and left no issue, and also two daughters, Elizabeth and Esther.

A descendant of Jean Francois de Gignilliat — either a granddaughter or a great-granddaughter — was married to William Harrison, born at Euhaw, South Carolina, in 1741, and was the ancestress of the writer of this book. Public records, such as wills and land transactions, cannot be offered as proof of this fact, because of destruction by fire and war. Private records, however, and an interview which was enjoyed in 1886, with Mrs. Sarah Gignilliat (Harrison) Gaulding, who was the second grandchild of William Harrison and —— Gignilliat, confirm this statement.

THE GIGNILLIAT DESCENDANTS

Jean Francois[1] Gignilliat = Susanne Le Serurier

Henry[2] Gignilliat = Esther Marion

Gabriel[3] Gignilliat = —— Cahusac

——[4] Gignilliat = William Harrison

Horace Jesse[5] Harrison = Mary Martha Pelot

Eliza Chisholm Pelot[6] Harrison = Daniel Vaughan

John James[7] Vaughan = Mary Lavisy Beville

Agnes Beville[8] Vaughan = Arthur White Tedcastle

THE COOKE FAMILY

"As for life, it is a battle and a sojourning in a strange land; but the fame that comes after is oblivion."

Marcus Aurelius.

CHAPTER XI

THE COOKE FAMILY

AARON COOKE, Captain, was one of the first settlers of the town of Dorchester, Massachusetts, coming there probably as early as 1630. He was made freeman in Dorchester, 6 May, 1635, where, 5 July, 1636, it was ordered that he should have "half an acre of ground over against his lot, by the brook near the dead swamp, to build his house upon." "Mr. Cooke," says Clapp's *History of the town of Dorchester*, "was a man of great energy and a devoted friend of the regicide Judges, Goffe and Whalley. While they were in this country they resided in his neighborhood." Among his fellow settlers of Dorchester were Roger Clap, Bernard and John Capen, Thomas Tileston, Roger Williams, and Henry Wolcott. Captain Aaron Cooke was born in England in 1610, and was married four times, his first wife, daughter of Thomas Ford, being the writer's ancestress. Their first daughter, Joanna, born 5 August, 1638, was married to Simon, son of Henry and Elizabeth Wolcott; their second daughter, Miriam, baptized 12 March, 1642–3, was married 8 November, 1661, to Joseph Leeds of Dorchester, and at once removed to Northampton, Massachusetts. Later she returned to Dorchester, and died there 23 August, 1720. Both she and her husband are buried in the old Dorchester burying-ground at Upham's Corner.

Captain Aaron Cooke had a land grant at Windsor, Connecticut, 5 July, 1636, and about this time with many of his friends assisted in founding this town. In Windsor he remained, one of the most prominent men of the town in municipal and military affairs, until 1661, when he removed to Northampton, Massachusetts, where he resided until his death, 5 September, 1690, at the age of eighty years. His first wife died at Windsor, some time after 1645, in which year her last child was born. Captain Cooke's military career, says Stiles's *History of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut*, "seems to have commenced in Windsor, for 21 May, 1653, Lieutenant Cooke was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the sixty-five soldiers drafted out of the ten Connecticut towns on a requisition of the Commissioners of the United Colonies, for a war against the Dutch, Windsor having the largest number of men; and 25 May, 1655, 'Leftenant' Cooke was chosen Captayne at Windsor; he had 87 papers (votes); only 19 for others. Sept. 1, 1656, he was ordered by the Town to beat the drum on Lord's and lecture-days, from the top of the meeting-house, for which he was to have 20s for the next year."

"In 1687, Gov. Andros made Cap. Cooke a major (then the highest military office in Mass.), and after Andros's fall he was again Captain . . . . . The valiant Captain, as appears from frequent mention in Windsor Town Records, was a great hunter of wolves."

THE COOKE DESCENDANTS

Captain Aaron[1] Cooke = —— Ford

Miriam[2] Cooke = Joseph Leeds

Joseph[3] Leeds = Mary Weekes

Mary[4] Leeds = Samuel Humphrey

Mary[5] Humphrey = Henry Vaughan, Jr.

John[6] Vaughan = Rhoda Effingham

Daniel[7] Vaughan = Eliza Chisholm Pelot Harrison

John James[8] Vaughan = Mary Lavisy Beville

Agnes Beville[9] Vaughan = Arthur White Tedcastle

THE WEEKES FAMILY

"Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."

The Bible.

CHAPTER XII

THE WEEKES FAMILY

GEORGE WEEKES came from Devonshire, England, to Dorchester, Massachusetts, in 1635, in the same ship with the Rev. Richard Mather. His wife was Jane Clap, a sister of Roger Clap, and both were admitted to the Dorchester church 21 December, 1639. Mr. Weekes, says the historian of the Weekes family, "was evidently a man of superior culture for his time, and held a prominent place in the colony." He was a selectman of Dorchester and from time to time occupied other positions of trust. He appears to have taken an especial interest in education. He died 28 December, 1650, and his widow afterward became the second wife of Jonas Humphrey.

Joseph Weekes, a younger son of George Weekes, born in Dorchester, but at what date is not known, married 9 April, 1667, Mary, daughter of Major General Humphrey Atherton, and their daughter Mary, born 20 May, 1668, was married to Joseph Leeds.

THE WEEKES DESCENDANTS

George[1] Weekes = Jane Clap

Joseph[2] Weekes = Mary Atherton

Mary[3] Weekes = Joseph Leeds

Mary[4] Leeds = Samuel Humphrey

Mary[5] Humphrey = Henry Vaughan, Jr.

John[6] Vaughan = Rhoda Effingham

Daniel[7] Vaughan = Eliza Chisholm Pelot Harrison

John James[8] Vaughan = Mary Lavisy Beville

Agnes Beville[9] Vaughan = Arthur White Tedcastle

THE LEEDS FAMILY

"God sifted a whole nation that he might send choice grain over into the wilderness." *William Stoughton.*

(*Election Sermon at Boston, April 29, 1669.*)

"When all is done, human life is, at the greatest and the best, but like a forward child that must be played with and humoured a little to keep it quiet till it falls asleep, and then the care is over."

Sir William Temple.

CHAPTER XIII

THE LEEDS FAMILY

RICHARD LEEDS of Great Yarmouth, England, with his wife Joan, left England, says Clapp's *History of Dorchester*, on the twelfth of April, 1637, "desirous, as he said (to Mr. Thomas Mayhew, the King's commissioner), 'to pass to New England, and there to inhabit and dwell.'" He settled at what is now Savin Hill in Dorchester and in 1639 was granted land on Thompson's Island for a fishing business, which he and Nathaniel Duncan carried on for many years. "He was an active man, both in church and town affairs, and left a large estate for those times. He died 18 March, 1692-3, aged about ninety-eight, and his grave-stone still marks the spot where he was laid. His wife Joan, who was in everything all that adorns a wife, mother, and friend, died in 1682, and lies by his side in the Dorchester burying-ground." The eldest children of Richard and Joan Leeds were twins, Joseph and Benjamin, born in Dorchester in 1637. Of these, Joseph married 8 November, 1661, Miriam Cooke, daughter of Captain Aaron Cooke of Northampton, concerning whom we have given some important facts. Joseph and Miriam lived at Northampton until about 1672, when they returned to Dorchester. Joseph died 28 January,

1714-15, aged about seventy-seven. Miriam died 23 August, 1720, aged about seventy-eight, having had a large family. "They were an exemplary couple and their children were among the most prominent of their generation."

Joseph Leeds, Jr., son of Joseph and Miriam, married Mary Weekes, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Atherton) Weekes, and granddaughter of Major General Humphrey Atherton. Their tombstones are likewise to be seen, the inscriptions they bear being still entirely legible, in the old Dorchester burying-ground.

View from Rose Arbor "Hill Crest"

THE LEEDS DESCENDANTS

Richard[1] Leeds = Joan ——

Joseph[2] Leeds = Miriam Cooke

Joseph[3] Leeds = Mary Weekes

Mary[4] Leeds = Samuel Humphrey

Mary[5] Humphrey = Henry Vaughan, Jr.

John[6] Vaughan = Rhoda Effingham

Daniel[7] Vaughan = Eliza Chisholm Pelot Harrison

John James[8] Vaughan = Mary Lavisy Beville

Agnes Beville[9] Vaughan = Arthur White Tedcastle

THE SCRUGGS FAMILY

"There is
One great society alone on earth :
The noble living and the noble dead."

Wordsworth.

CHAPTER XIV

THE SCRUGGS FAMILY

THE remote ancestor of the Scruggs family was named Schroggs, he was one of the Continentals who came to England with the Conqueror or about the Conqueror's time. In time his name was anglicized to Scroggs and Scruggs, the latter being the name the family has always borne in America. In the time of Cromwell's protectorate two brothers, Henry and Richard Scruggs emigrated to Virginia and there became tobacco planters on a large scale. We find Richard Scruggs in James City County, Virginia, in 1655, and exactly one hundred years later we find one of his descendants, also named Richard, petitioning for land in St. George's Parish, Georgia, about fifty miles from Savannah, which was then in Christ Church Parish. The *Colonial Records of Georgia*, volume 7, page 678, of the date December, 1757, records the petition of Richard Scruggs, "setting forth that he was lately come into the province and was desirous to become a settler therein, his family consisting of his wife, five children, and nine negroes, now in the province." He received his grant on the Walnut Branch of Briar Creek.

Again, in volume 8 of the same records, in October, 1762, we find Richard Scruggs, while setting forth that he had had three hundred acres of land granted him, "fit only for pasturing cattle," petitioning for another tract of three hundred and fifty acres adjoining southward on land of Robert Bevill. This fresh grant he obtained, the land lying in the Parish of St. Matthew. From the fact that Richard Scruggs and Robert Bevill owned adjoining plantations, nothing was more natural than that a daughter of Scruggs should become the wife of a son of Bevill. This, as our charts will show, was precisely what did happen.

In volume 9 of the Georgia Colonial Records, page 232, under date of November, 1764, we find recorded as follows: "Ordered that Richard Scruggs and Leonard Claiborne be inserted in the Commission of the Peace, Justices for the Parish of St. Matthew." It is proper to mention here that Richard Scruggs, Robert Bevill, and Leonard Claiborne came together from Virginia to Georgia, and that they were throughout their lives bound by the closest ties of blood and friendship. It is known beyond a doubt that William Claiborne, great-grandfather of Leonard, who was undoubtedly the most distinguished of all the early American Colonists, was an ancestor of the writer of this book, her descent from him coming through the marriage of Paul Bevill, Sr. and Sarah Scruggs. Owing to the loss of Georgia records, however, it is uncertain through which family, the Bevills or Scruggses, she does descend from him. The alliance of Henry Scruggs with Ann Gross, this marriage occurring 25 January, 1685-6, in St. Peter's Parish, New Kent County, Virginia, gives the writer also a Gross ancestry. Of the Gross family the most distinguished member has been the

brilliant surgeon, Dr. Gross of Philadelphia. Through the Bevill-Scruggs marriage comes also to the writer a Sisson ancestry, Thomas Sisson, a descendant of Richard Sisson of Rhode Island, having settled in North Carolina early in the eighteenth century and become a planter there. William Sisson, son of Thomas, removed to Georgia, and either his sister or his daughter, Ann, who was the wife of Richard Scruggs, administered on his estate "as nearest of kin."

THE SCRUGGS DESCENDANTS

Richard Scruggs = Martha

Henry[1] Scruggs = Hannah Gross

Gross[2] Scruggs = Ann ——

Richard[3] Scruggs = Ann Sisson

Sarah[4] Scruggs = Paul Bevill, Sr.

Paul[5] Bevill, Jr. = Mary Pearce

Stephen Pearce[6] Bevill = Lavina Lipsey

Mary Lavisy[7] Beville = John James Vaughan

Agnes Beville[8] Vaughan = Arthur White Tedcastle

Thomas[1] Sisson = ——

William[2] Sisson = ——

Ann[3] Sisson = Richard Scruggs

Sarah[4] Scruggs = Paul Bevill, Sr.

Paul[5] Bevill, Jr. = Mary Pearce

Stephen Pearce[6] Bevill = Lavina Lipsey

Mary Lavisy[7] Beville = John James Vaughan

Agnes Beville[8] Vaughan = Arthur White Tedcastle

NOTES

NOTES

CHAPTER I

1. "From the flower garden, where Tabby was greatly given to the culture of clove pinks, were wafted through the chinks of the window shutters perfumes that might have come from Araby the blest."

Mrs. Burton Harrison, in "Flower De Hundred."

CHAPTER II

2. The original form of the name Bevill was De Beville, but in England it was anglicized to Beville, and so appears until 1643, when Sir Bevill Granville, the hero of the battle of Landsdowne, changed the spelling to Bevill. It is interesting to note that in America the female members of the family have uniformly retained the final e.

3. Bevill Granville was Governor of the Barbadoes in 1706 and there is an unpublished letter among the Hawks Mss. in Fulham Palace [Library] Fulham Road S.W. London written by Rev. Bevill Granville 6th May, 1732 and dated from "North and South Carolina and Georgia."

Right Hon. John Earl Granville, Viscount Cartaret and Baron Cartaret of Hawnes, in the County of Bedford, had a grant of land in America from George II, dated 17 September, 1744, which was laid in what is now Pitt county, North Carolina.

4. In his notes on the Bevill family, carefully made from original records in Virginia, the late Thomas Forsythe Nelson, genealogist of Washington, D. C., calls her Amy Butler, but once at least he calls

her Ann. Whether she was married to Essex Bevill in Virginia or not we cannot be sure, nor whether she was related to the Rev. Amory Butler of Rappahannock or the Rev. William Butler, his brother, who held the livin of Washington Parish. A Rev. Thomas Butler of Denbigh Parish had a grant there of 1000 acres in 1635.

5. Thereafter there were many grants to John Bevill; to Thomas and Daniel Bevill, "sons of Essex Bevill deceased" granted in 1730, and to a younger Essex Bevill, all in Virginia. While it is shown that both the sons of Essex Bevill married, the details of the family groups in which we can place Robert Bevill "Vestryman in Bristol Parish in 1731" have not been discovered. There is hardly any doubt but that they are the progenitors of all of the name in Virginia and who went thence to Georgia.

6. John Vaughan, Samuel Harrison, and Ephraim Harrison, son of Samuel, Robert Harrison, James Pelot, John Francis Pelot, son of James, and Stephen Pearce, one of the heirs of William Mills, were all interested in the title to lands on Amelia Island, East Florida, as early as 1797. This fact is found in the printed report of the Commissioners who took testimony and adjusted the land claims after the Floridas were taken into and became a part of the United States.

In 1763, East and West Florida were ceded by Spain to Great Britain, and in the next twenty years more than 2500 whites had settled there. In 1783 the Floridas were again ceded to Spain and most of the English settlers withdrew. In 1795 West Florida was sold to France.

"East Florida was delivered by Governor Coppinger to Lieutenant Robert Butler of the United States Army, July 10, 1821, and on that day the Spanish flag was finally lowered from the walls of St. Augustine, where it had so long proudly waved. The stars and stripes announced the second acquisition to the young nation of the new world." "The Purchase of Florida, Its History and Diplomacy," by Hubert Bruce Fuller, A.M., LL.M. Cleveland, Ohio, 1906, Page 323.

CHAPTER III

7. This is learned from a deed, which we shall hereafter refer to, given in Book 1, page 60, of the Norfolk County Deeds, in Dedham.

April 30, 1754, Henry "Vaughn" received a deed from John Fuller, of four and a half acres on the Dedham road to Dedham meeting house. "Suffolk County Registry of Deeds," Book 84, P. 196.

May 19, 1755, Henry Vaughn, probably the father but possibly the son, entered military service. He appears on a muster roll dated Boston, February 26, 1756, of a company in H. M. Service under command of Captain Eliphalet Fales, his rank private, his residence Dedham. He served until December 15, thirty weeks and one day. He was in the Crown Point Expedition. "Military Archives," Book 94, P. 95.

Henry Vaughn appears on a card as John Vaughn's father or master in 1763. "Military Archives," Vol. 98, P. 429.

March 18, 1765, Henry Vaughn of Dedham, County Suffolk, husbandman, sells to William Badlam of Dedham, husbandman, for £120., 20 acres "by estimation" in the township of Dedham, of which "Henry is lawfully seized and possessed" in his own proper right as a good, perfect, and absolute estate of inheritance in fee simple." Both Henry and his wife sign this deed, which is registered in Norfolk County, Nov. 28, 1793. Mary Vaughan appears before Samuel Dexter. J. P., and acknowledges having signed this instrument as her free act and deed. The boundaries of the land are minutely given.

Of John Vaughn (Henry, Sr., and Elizabeth) born 13 May, 1745, baptized 26 May, 1745, we have a more complete record than of his brother, Henry. He entered Military service in 1761, serving in Capt. Lemuel Bent's Company, in Capt. Simon Jefferd's Company from 28 May, 1762, until 21 July 1762, and in Capt. Oliver Billings' Company in 1779, in which year he reported his age as 33. He married in Dorchester (by Rev. Jonathan Bowman) 5 September,

1769, Rachel Humphrey of Dorchester, youngest daughter of Samuel and Mary (Leeds) Humphrey, who was born 5 April, 1736, and died, according to the Humphrey Genealogy, in May, 1802, aged 67. After her death John Vaughan married Susannah ——, who died (Dorchester Vital Records) May 27, 1803, John Vaughan died September 14, 1810.

On the day of the Battle of Lexington, John Vaughan and others assembled in the Dorchester Company. "History of Dorchester," p. 341. He served in some capacity in the Revolution from July 24, 1776 to April 3, 1779. "History of Dorchester," p. 343.

On the 22nd of December, 1786, John Vaughan of "Dorchester, County Suffolk," and his wife Rachel, deed a piece of land lying in Dorchester (¼ of an acre more or less) to James Humphrey of the same town, tanner, David Clapp, Jr. and Hannah Humphrey being witnesses of their signatures. They also deed a third of an acre to James Humphrey, November 17, 1795, on which date they acknowledge the former deed. See Norfolk County records (at Dedham) April 7, 1800, they sell for fifty dollars to James Humphrey, about 9 rods, together with half of a dwelling house standing thereon.

John Vaughan and his wife Rachel owned the covenant in Dorchester December 10, 1769; Rachel Vaughan was admitted to full communion July 15, 1781.

John and Rachel Vaughan had at least one child. This was Rachel, born 30 December, 1769, baptized January 7, 1770; died 28 January, 1770. That they had other daughters is possible, for in the census of 1790, John Vaughan living in Dorchester, is said to have had a family consisting of one male (himself) and three white females.

An Elizabeth Vaughan (the record says "widow of *John*"), died in Dorchester September 14, 1810. That she was not widow of John but of *Henry* Sr., we are quite convinced. She must have been over ninety when she died.

8. In the description given of Vaughan on his entrance on military service in Massachusetts, he is said to be sixteen years old, his

height is given as five feet, and his hair and complexion are said to be light.

John D. Vaughan is said to have been with Washington at Valley Forge, where, after being defeated at Germantown in December, 1777, Washington went into winter quarters.

CHAPTER IV

9. The term "Sea Island" as applied to many of the plantations of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida implies that these estates were surrounded by the tide waters of the sea. The Sea Island plantations were by far the most famous southern plantations, raising the so-called Sea Island cotton, which has a "long staple," in contradistinction to the short staple cotton, which to this day is not worth more than one fourth the value of the other.

The plantation of which Frances Anne Kemble (Mrs. Pierce Butler) in her "Journal of a Residence on a Georgia Plantation in 1838-1839," writes so charmingly was situated on St. Simon's Island, and on neighboring plantations on this island, especially that owned by the Hon. Thomas Spalding and later by his son Randolph Spalding, this Harrison family in successive generations visited frequently and intimately. Mrs. Pierce Butler's book was published in London by Longman, Green, Longman, Roberts, and Green, 1863.

10. Mr. Wm. G. Stanard in "The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography," Vol. XXIII, pp. 214, 215.

11. Bishop Meade's "Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia," Vol. II, p. 210.

12. Bishop Meade's "Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia," Vol. II, pp. 105, 109.

CHAPTER V

13. See "Transactions of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina," by Dr. J. G. B. Bulloch, in an article on "The Influence of the Huguenots in the United States of America". Dr. Bulloch says:

"It was the gallant Pelot who captured the Water Witch during the late war between the states." The following interesting account of the capture of the Water Witch by Captain Thomas Pelot, great-grandson of Rev. Francis Pelot, was written by Mr. Arthur W. Tedcastle from notes given him by Julian Schley, Esq., a lawyer of Savannah: "The United States government vessels were blockading Savannah. Captain Thomas Pelot of the Confederate Navy, stationed at Beaulia Battery on Green Island, Ossabaw Sound, noticed a new vessel joining the squadron just below the island. This proved to be the converted yacht Water Witch, loaded with arms and supplies for the use of naval forces. Pelot asked for and was given permission to lead an expedition to capture her. He called for one hundred volunteers and over two hundred offered. Captain Pelot selected one hundred, and taking four barges with muffled oars the expedition started after dark and rowed to the mouth of the Sound, about six miles away. In the darkness two of the boats were lost and returned to the battery, so only fifty men reached the Water Witch. They found her, as usual with night nets out to prevent her being boarded, but they had grappling irons and ladders, and boarded her from each side. As they anticipated, all on board being tired only the deck watch was in sight. This watch proved to be a very powerful negro, and as Captain Pelot ascended the ladder the man met him with two pistols, killed the Captain, and killed and wounded several others. The rest of the party, however, overpowered the negro, and before the sleeping crew could appear, the hatchways were closed and guarded and all the crew kept below. Captain Pelot had with him as pilot an old negro, Ben, belonging to some branch of his family, and he took the wheel. The boarding party then roused the engineer and at the point of the pistol compelled him to run the vessel into Beaulia Battery. She was unloaded, her guns and supplies were taken, and she was burned and sunk." The History of the Confederate Navy asserts that "no country ever lost a more gallant officer or more polished gentleman than Captain Pelot."

14. "Two Centuries of the First Baptist Church of South Carolina, 1683-1883." Edited by H. A. Tupper. Baltimore, 1889. P. 29.

CHAPTER VI

15. See "President Washington's Diary," under date of May 16, 1791.

CHAPTER VII

16. "Chisolm Genealogy. Being a Record of the Name from A.D. 1254." By William Garnett Chisolm, LL.B. New York, 1914.

17. "History and Genealogy of the Family of Baillie of Dunain," pp. 20, 21, 45, 73.

18. "Chisolm Genealogy," pp. 13, 1.

CHAPTER VIII

19. See "History of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company," Vol. I, pp. 52, 53; the "History of Dorchester"; "Diary of John Hull" (1660); "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register" (for 1848, 1878, and 1881); and other authorities.

In the "Boston Evening Transcript" of Wednesday, July 12, 1916, appeared the following query: "(5695) 1. Atherton. When and where was Humphrey Atherton born; also his daughter Isabel, wife of Nathaniel Wales, Jr.? E. S. S. M. N."

A little later an answer as follows appeared in the "Transcript":

"*5695. 1. Atherton. E. S. S. M. N., and *5702. 4. Atherton. G. C. P. N., July 12, 1916. Major General Humphrey Atherton was born in Preston, Lancashire, Eng., before 1610; married Mary Wales, daughter of John Wales of Idle (Bradford), Yorkshire, Eng. 'At marriage he was between fourteen and fifteen years of age, his wife being between thirteen and fourteen.' He died from an accident, Sept. 16, 1661; he is buried in Dorchester, Mass. (Upham's Corner), Stoughton Burial Ground, having a very quaint epitaph upon his tombstone; his wife born (April 30, 1638) died Aug. 17, 1672. In 1658 he was senior commander of all New England colonial military forces. The Athertons are a very ancient family, descending from 'Robert of Atherton,' Shrieve (sheriff) of Lancashire, Eng., in the time of King John, 1199 to 1226.

"Isabel, third child of Humphrey Atherton, was baptized at Winwick, Eng., Jan. 23, 1630; Consider, his fifth child, married Anna Anniball, Oct. 19, 1761, (or Dec. 14, 1671). See New England Historical and Genealogical Register, vols. 32 and 35; Putnam's Historical Magazine, March 1899; and Robert's 'Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company'; also 'Atherton Family in England,' page 72, found in the Library of the New England Historic and Genealogical Society, Boston; also, Encyclopedia Edition xiii."

On Monday, August 14, 1916, also appeared:

"*5695. 1. Atherton. July 31, 1916. I think the statement that Major General Humphrey Atherton's wife was Mary Wales, daughter of John Wales of Idle, Yorkshire, Eng., is a mistake. While it is true that Nathaniel Wales in his will, 20-4-1661, leaves 'My wife and my brother-in-law Humphrey Atherton' executors, this evidently should not be taken in the sense that we now use the term 'brother-in-law.' This Nathaniel Wales, son of John Wales of Idle, County Yorkshire, who was baptized Idle, County York, April 18, 1623, married Isabel, daughter of Humphrey Atherton. She was baptized Winwick, County Lincolnshire, Jan. 29, 1630. The will of John Wales of Idle, County York, father of Nathaniel Wales, probated Nov. 26, 1610, leaves the residue of his property 'to his children equally,' and names six sons and no daughters."

W. S. M. N.

CHAPTER IX

20. Samuel Humphrey's will was made 8 September, 1761, and proved July 11, 1766. The Inventory shows his estate to have been valued at £159.10.8.

In his will he mentions his eldest (living) daughter, Ruth Clapp, wife of David Clapp, his only child by his first wife then living; his daughter Mary "Vann", wife of Henry Vann; and his unmarried daughters Elizabeth and Rachel. His homestead he devises to these four daughters in specific parts.

November 11, 1763, Henry Vaughn mortgages twenty acres of land in Dedham to John Whiting. "Registry of Suffolk County," Book 100, p. 254.

CHAPTER X

21. See "Transactions of the Huguenot Society," Charleston, S. C., 1915, p. 32. Dr. Bulloch says here: "What names stand higher on the roll of honor than Godin, Guerard, Mazÿck, Manignult, Ravenel, Porcher, Du Bose, Petigru, Gaillard, Bacot, Gignilliat, Gibert, Marion, Horry, Huger, Moragne, Prioleau, and many others." Elsewhere in the same article Dr. Bulloch mentions many other names of eminent Huguenot families in the State, as for example De St. Julien, De Saussure, De Veaux, Legare, Le Serurier, Pelot, and Postell.

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